



Proposition 198 Lawsuit

*LPC and other parties fight
new primary law*

by Richard Venable

For three and a half days during the last week of July, witnesses from the state's Libertarian, Democratic, Republican and Peace and Freedom parties followed each other to the stand to ask US District Court Judge David F. Levi to overturn the Open Primary law (Prop. 198) passed last year.

The suit was filed against California Secretary of State Bill Jones and Californians for an Open Primary — the latter purportedly a group of conservative Republicans who fear a Christian Right faction could take control of their party.

The new law should properly be called Blanket (or non-partisan) Primary, according to testimony. Voters at the primary election would be given one ballot listing the names of all candidates regardless of party affiliation. That would allow voters to cross party lines.

The main arguments of the plaintiffs were that the new law infringes their First Amendment rights to freedom of association, would destroy the integrity of their individual parties and weaken them, and violates their bylaws restricting non-party members from choosing nominees for public office.

Defense witnesses argued that the law represents the will of the voters, that it keeps power in their hands and not those of the "power elite," that it would increase voter turnout, and that it serves several compelling state interests.

They also referred to large voter turnouts in the open primaries of Washington and Alaska. *(continued on page 9)*



R i c k M i n y a r d

Radio Host Registers Libertarian

*Top rated California radio
personality announces his
support for Libertarian Party*

Another popular radio talk show host has left the Republican Party and announced his support for the Libertarian Party during a live broadcast. Rick Minyard, a #1-rated talk show host on KFIV Radio (AM-1360) in Modesto, announced that he had changed his registration to Libertarian during his morning show on June 17th.

"As far as I can tell, the party that represents my views on the majority of the issues is the Libertarian Party," he said.

Minyard explained that he made the switch — after years of close ties to the Republican Party — because of the GOP "cave-in" on the *(continued on page 5)*

Fundraising Seminars

*Twin events receive rave
reviews from members*

Last month, the LPC sponsored two seminars intended to support the fundraising efforts of local regions and their activists. The twin events took place in Northern and Southern California locations — the cities Santa Clara and Irvine — over the weekend of July 26-27.

Conducting the seminars were two activists with extensive fundraising experience and success: Michael Cloud and Barbara Goushaw. Together, they covered a variety of topics, including fundraising basics, making your organization donor-worthy, how to raise your first \$2,500, how to raise your first \$200,000, large donor fundraising, telephoning for money and volunteers, direct mail fundraising, and event fundraising.

Reaction from those who attended was highly enthusiastic. "It was an awesome event," said Mark Murphy of Orange County. "The LPOC has a direct mail fundraising and membership recruitment project coming up which will directly benefit from what we learned this weekend. No question about it."

Juan Ros of *(continued on page 3)*

I N S I D E

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- ▶ *Columns, Letters & More!*

August 1997

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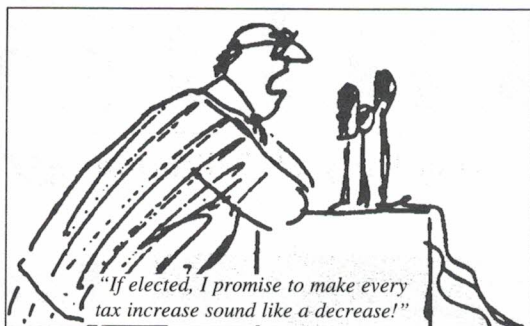
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LETTERS



Worried Republicans

As you know, Bob Dornan has blamed the LP for helping the GOP lose a few congressional seats in 1996. This sentiment seems official. I had a chat recently with a former LP member who is now an officer of the California Republican Party. He wanted to know what it would take for Libertarians to stay out of races in marginal districts — otherwise, it would be difficult for Republicans to win those seats in '98.

TED BROWN
Pasadena, CA

Ending the NEA

The House Appropriations Committee recently voted to cut the budget for the NEA to only \$10 million (just enough to close it down). Predictable howls arose in the media, blaming it all on "narrow-minded, tunnel-visioned, irrational" people bent on "limiting artistic expression." Those are strong words, and I think they are wrong on two counts. There are broad-minded, clear-eyed, rational reasons for what the six Republicans did, and I for one applaud them.

It's unfair (and unconstitutional) to force me to pay for work I never ordered. I don't care if my share was only a fraction of a dollar a year. I would still be against it if it were a fraction of a nickel. The principle is the same.

And I have no wish to limit anyone's freedom of expression. Let them express themselves any way they want, and if it's not good enough to sell, let them either get honest jobs or go starve in a garret and achieve the anonymity they deserve.

The other reason is that this is one of the things Republicans promised their constituents that they would do if elected. It's a long way from fulfilling the entire Contract With America, but it's a tiny step in the right direction. It strikes me that to condemn legislators for honoring a campaign promise is about as narrow-minded, tunnel-visioned, and irrational as you can get.

DICK CRAWFORD
Rcrawf4000@aol.com

The following letter, written by a member of Region 37, was sent to the mayor of San Diego; it is reprinted here in an abridged form...

Curfews Are Fun and Educational

With deep gratitude, I write you in support of what you have done for the teenagers of San Diego. Of course, I'm referring to the new curfew ordinance on the "unwashed non-voting underclass" known as juveniles.

I remember, when I was a teenager, how dull it was to live in a town without a curfew, and how exciting it became when we got one...

Instead of sitting around bored, we now had cops to play "cops & robbers" with. We learned where every fence and culvert was in the neighborhood. As a teen, I could jump fences that only the most agile cop could climb.

We learned a lot of valuable lessons from our curfew, like "rules are meant to be broken," "tyrants deserve what they get," and how to avoid authorities in dark alleys — all of which may be needed in adult life if we get tyrants as leaders in our government.

Once the dullest of classes — study hall — became a boasting contest to see who had the best story of ditching cops. Talk about educational!

And we no longer believed our "the officer is your friend" brainwashing. Distrusting government is a good thing, and I'm glad you are doing your part to make sure it runs strong in the youth of San Diego.

With this ordinance you have also taken away one of the police officers' main tools in distinguishing criminals from good kids — "the running confession." No longer can an officer assume that just because a juvenile took off running, they had a reason, because a curfew makes every teen afraid.

Thank you especially for what your curfew has done for the cause of Liberty: it has assured the Libertarian Party sustained growth for at least ten years, as the teens you have harassed turn 18. They will always resent the way they were treated while they were powerless — as do I.

JOHN R. GRAHAM
San Diego, CA

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Northern Regional Conference

Activists gather near Sacramento River for Special Event

Ask Shasta Region (R45) chair Dwight Bailey, secretary Vince Carlton and Excom member Al Swain about best laid plans and they will probably not think of the famous lines penned by Robert Burns; instead, they probably will probably speak of their efforts organizing the first LPC Northern Regional Conference on Saturday, July 26.



Conference attendees included Ross Crain, Gail Lightfoot, Dwight Bailey and Al Swain. (photo: Richard Venable)

Originally, the conference was to have been a three-day event in a Redding hotel featuring seminars, video conferencing and media appointments for state party officials. What actually came to pass was a single meeting inside a gazebo in Anderson Valley River Park on the bank

of the Sacramento River in 104° heat.

The planned seminars became roundtable discussions of issues like redevelopment, special assessment districts, grassroots politics and the Unified Membership Plan.

In addition to the regional officers, another dozen members attended.

The only state party officials present were Gail Lightfoot and Al Swain, at-large representatives on the LPC Executive Committee. Both were interviewed by the local ABC-TV affiliate.

A regional award was given to Bailey for "exemplary effort in representing the principles of the" (continued on page 5)

LPC Plan to End Budget Stalemate

by Richard Venable

The LPC has called for swift action against California lawmakers who have violated the state Constitution by not passing a state budget before the Constitutionally-set deadline.

"All California legislators should have their salary docked for each day past the deadline they fail to produce a budget," proposed LPC



Chair Mark Hinkle. "Only then will lawmakers see that the voters of California mean business when it comes to \$68 billion of their tax money."

Article IV, Section 12(c) of the state Constitution states: "The Legislature shall pass the budget bill by midnight on June 15 of each year." The Governor then has 15 days to sign the budget bill before the start of the new fiscal year.

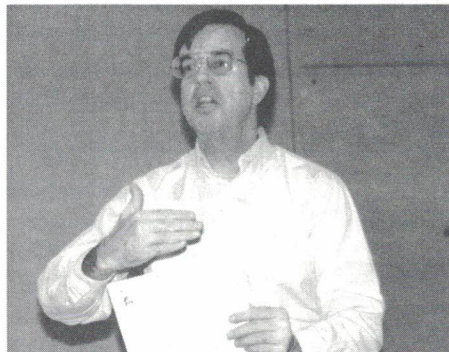
"It's been more than a month since that deadline passed, and we still have no budget for the fiscal year which started July 1. California has been operating without a spending plan and that is unacceptable as well as unconstitutional," said Hinkle. "The June 15 deadline was devised to protect Californians from the very abuses now taking place in the State Capitol, abuses that have become a yearly ritual."

Hinkle noted that of the seven budgets enacted for this decade, only once has the Legislature met its Constitutionally-mandated deadline, and only one budget was signed by the Governor on time.

"The budget process has gotten out of hand and it's time to put a stop to it," he demanded. "The 1997-98 budget is a \$68 billion dollar monster, and every legislator in Sacramento wants a piece of the pie. It's no wonder a consensus can't be reached." (continued on page 9)



Barbara Goushaw



Michael Cloud

Fundraising Seminars

(continued from page 1)

the San Fernando Valley agreed, describing the event as "exceptional." Virtually everyone had high praise for Cloud and Goushaw, and many expressed a desire to see the twin seminars become annual

events so that new activists can benefit from them.

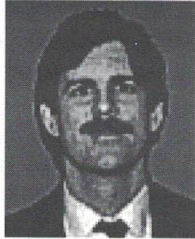
The Fundraising Seminars were the brainchild of LPC Chair Mark Hinkle and organized by veteran activist Laura McFadden of Region 66 (Long Beach). Congratulations to both of them, and to Michael Cloud and Barbara Goushaw, for producing a highly successful and valuable event. ■

From The Chair:

Right on Track

by Mark Hinkle

I'll begin this column by repeating our goals for 1997:



1. Increase our dues paying membership to 5,000.
2. Raise \$150,000 in revenues.
3. Hire at least one paid employee, working in an office.

The recent LPC twin fundraising seminars were a success! Thirty eight people attended the workshops conducted by Barbara Goushaw and Michael Cloud.

I attended the Northern California seminar. One moment pleased me greatly: Michael Cloud asked attendees what were the goals of the LPC, and they answered by naming the three listed above. The message has been received!

Now, a review of our progress...

Our current membership (as of 8/5/97) is 4,341 — just 651 members away from our goal. We'll need to add about 100 new members per month for the rest of the year to reach our goal. There are two ways we can do this: 1) mass mailing recruitment letters to prospects; 2) grassroots recruiting at the local level.

The first option is costly since the typical response to mass mailings is 1-3%. That means mailing to 10,000 people will

generate 100 new members. At 50 cents per letter, 100 new members will cost \$5,000. 500 new members will cost \$25,000.

Of course, 100 new members also means at least \$2,500 (100 x \$25) in income from dues. More likely, it'll be about \$3,650 since some new members join at higher dues levels, and others make donations. Plus Michael Cloud has increased our average per member donation to \$30 per year. That's a total of \$6,650 donated to the LP (national, state

and local regions) on an investment of \$5,000. Not bad — especially when you consider that, after the first year, additional contributions and membership renewal dues compound the dividend.

How could it get any better?

Answer: grassroots membership recruitment! If just 100 of the over 5,000 people receiving this newsletter sign up their wife, husband, child, parent or friend, imagine the progress we'd make! If we add just 100 new members for the next 5 months, we'll be at 5,000 members — goal #1.

So, which option do you choose?

1. Sending the LPC \$50 to get 1 new member via mass mailings.
2. Signing up a family member or friend for \$25.
3. None of the Above — the “keep the party small and ineffective” option.

It's your choice. I hope you choose growth. For me, option 3 is not a choice. Option 1 will be the default choice unless 500 of you choose option #2.

And now for some more good news... The national party sends the LPC a minimum of \$1 per donor/member each month. Our latest mailing list report showed 4,861 people, including non-signers of the pledge, newsletter subscribers and others. When the initial UMP phase ends in

October, this will mean a minimum monthly income to the LPC of over \$6,000 per month!

As for our goal of raising \$150,000 in revenues: we're on track. Although our fundraising income has dipped this Summer (historically, fundraising is most productive in the Spring and Fall), it's less than expected and should rebound soon. Moreover, we're concentrating on expanding our base of monthly pledgers.

Your donations fuel our progress. Thanks for caring. ■

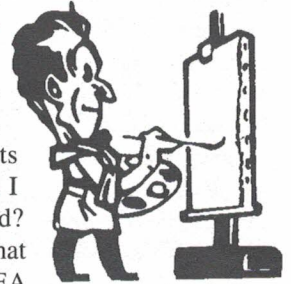
“Your donations fuel our progress.”

Art Freedom, Not Funding

by Juan Ros

I am a struggling screenwriter who has yet to sell a screenplay. But I consider myself an artist, and, as an artist, I feel that the U.S. Congress should abolish the National Endowment for the Arts.

An artist calling for the end of federal arts subsidies? Have I lost my mind? Don't I realize that without the NEA the arts in this country will die?



Hogwash.

I don't appreciate our government's patronizing attitude towards the arts — which it treats like a welfare case. Without the NEA, the arts in this country will be just as alive and vibrant as they were prior to 1965, when the NEA was established.

Moreover, the U.S. government has no constitutional authority to subsidize the arts. Just as the government is not authorized to meddle in education, workers' retirement, health care, or any of the countless other areas in which it is involved, neither should it interfere with the creation, production, distribution or enjoyment of art.

The problem is, whenever tax funds are involved, things get political. Witness the debates over government subsidies of allegedly “pornographic” art. Tax-supported art is everyone's business because everyone pays taxes. What if I don't like the art I'm subsidizing? What if I don't even consider it art? Such questions should be left to individuals to answer for themselves. Allowing the government to decide what is art is dangerous: that road leads to censorship and regulation of artistic expression.

Where is the NEA's money going?

The NEA brags that it costs only \$ 0.38 per taxpayer. The 1997 appropriation for the NEA totaled (continued on page 8)

Rick Minyard

(continued from page 1)

disaster relief aid bill in mid-June.

"The straw that broke the camel's back was disaster relief legislation," he said. "I was embarrassed at the Republican cave-in."

The Republican-sponsored disaster relief bill contained a clause that would have guaranteed federal funding during any threatened government shut-down. When President Clinton threatened to veto the bill, the GOP backed down on its demands.

"It's truly a rudderless party," Minyard said. "If this is what it means to be a Republican, then I don't want to be a Republican."

So, during a program that focused on numerous Republican failures, Minyard announced that he had re-registered as a Libertarian. The response from his listeners, he said, was overwhelmingly positive.

"A flood of people gave me the hur-

rah," he said. "Dozens of my listeners have congratulated me on registering as a Libertarian and many joined the party."

Minyard said his decision to switch was helped by Harry Browne, who he had interviewed during the 1996 presidential campaign. "I read Harry Browne's campaign platform, and realized that this is all the things that Republicans promised to do, but didn't," he said.

But even though he has changed his registration, Minyard said he hasn't officially joined the party — so he can maintain his "credibility and objectivity on the air." But that won't stop him, he promised, from promoting the libertarian philosophy during his show. "I want less government to mean less government — not just slowing its growth," he said.

Minyard's show, the "Morning Express," is ranked #1 among adult males in its time slot. KFIV Radio is one of the top five rated stations among 27 radio stations in California's central valley, reaching from San Francisco to Sacramento.

Minyard joins a number of other prominent radio talk show hosts who

have affiliated themselves with the Libertarian Party over the last several years, including Irv Homer (WWDB, Philadelphia, PA), Neil Boortz (WSB, Atlanta, GA), "Lionel" (WABC, New York, NY), Dr. Roger Libby (WNNX, Atlanta, GA) and Zoh Hieronimus (WCBM, Baltimore, MD). ■

Northern Conference

(continued from page 3)

Libertarian Party in Northern California...and in participation in north state organizations supporting the rights of our citizens in the cause of Liberty."

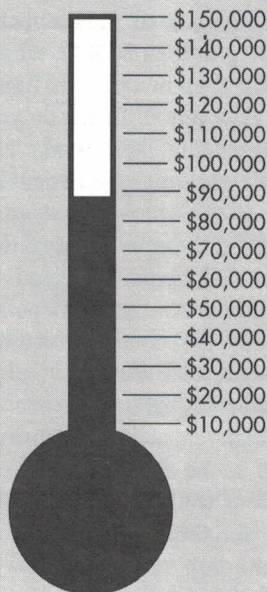
The region also presented an award to Ross Crain for "tireless commitment to the growth of the Libertarian Party in Northern California."

Despite the event's downsizing, participants seemed to enjoy the conference and many said they looked forward to attending the next one. ■

Growth Watch 1997

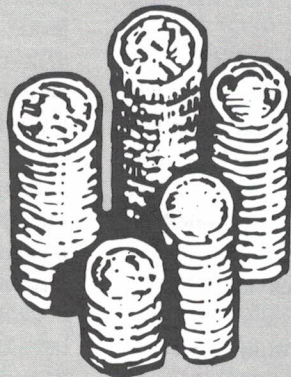
Revenue

Current: \$89,423
Year End Goal: \$150,000



Pledges & Donations

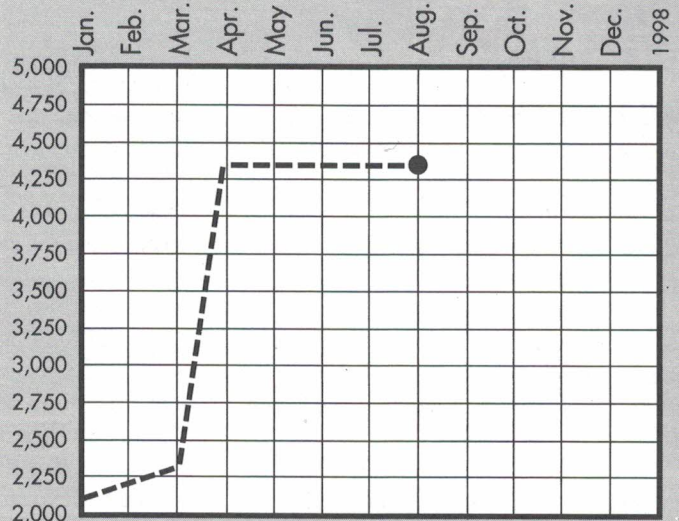
Totals for July
Pledges: \$2,124
Donations: \$2,463



Help Us Grow! To make a monthly pledge or one time donation, use the form on back of this newsletter, or call (408) 243-2711 x33.

Membership

Current: 4,341 Year End Goal: 5,000



Help Us Grow! Ask just one friend or coworker to join the Libertarian Party in 1997 -- or offer to pay their dues the first year if they will consider paying them when it comes time to renew!

Marshall Fritz: Separating School and State



On the evening of Friday, August 1, LPC Region 64 (Central Los Angeles) hosted a special supper club with guest speaker Marshall Fritz, founder and president of the Separation of School and State Alliance — a growing grass-roots organization dedicated to restoring America's heritage of educational freedom. Organized by Region 64 Chair Pam Probst, the event drew a crowd of over sixty people, including many non-Libertarians, which filled the main dining room at the Hollywood International House of Pancakes.

Following is an abridged transcript of the speech which Marshall Fritz delivered that evening...

Marshall Fritz: It's great to be back here in Los Angeles and among so many of my Libertarian friends — a lot of people I haven't seen in many years. We've had a real hug-athon going on here! *(audience laughs)*

Tonight, I'm going to be talking about separating education and state, but I'll begin by discussing the philosophy of relativism, as it relates to public schools and its effect on our society.

To put the subject of relativism into context, I'll start with a short overview of Western philosophical thought, which I separate into four categories: classical paganism (ancient Greeks and Romans); monotheism (Jews, Christians, Muslims, etc.); philosophical materialism (the

belief that the material world is all that exists); and relativism (the denial of objective reality). To distinguish between these groups, we ask three questions: Does truth exist? Is there a spiritual world? And is there a connection between the two?

Did the ancient Greeks and Romans believe that truth existed? The answer is yes. Did they think that there was a spiritual world? By Jove, they did! And did they believe that there was a connection between the spiritual world and truth? No. Their gods fibbed a lot! *(audience laughs)*

Do the monotheists believe in truth? Yes. Do they believe in a spiritual world? Yes. Do they believe there is a connection between the two? Yes, they say "God is truth."

Many libertarians are philosophical materialists. Do they believe that truth exists? Yes. Do they believe in a spiritual world? No. By definition, they believe in the material world only. Therefore, the third question is null to them: something which exists cannot have a relationship with something which does not.

Now, do relativists believe that truth exists? No. Truth is an absolute and they do not believe in absolutes — although they don't like to admit it. It's hard to get a relativist to say "there are no absolutes" because they know you'll ask "How sure are you?" — and then they'll have to say, "Absolutely!" *(audience laughs)* Rela-

tivism is self-refuting. Even a child who doesn't know anything about formal logic instinctively knows it's nonsense.

The second question — Does a spiritual world exist? — is even more difficult for relativists. Since truth doesn't exist, who knows if there is a spiritual world? And you can't answer the third question — Is there a relationship between truth and the spiritual world? — because you don't have adequate answers to the first two questions.

Fortunately, relativists don't live their lives according to their philosophy. They don't say to police officers: "That may've been a red light to you but it wasn't to me!" *(audience laughs)* If they actually did live according to their beliefs, they'd get killed or locked-up in a jail or a funny farm. Their philosophy is found only in their minds — and in their books and classrooms. Still, they manage to cause a lot of trouble.

I believe that state-imposed education is the single greatest breeder of relativist thinking in children. And a child doesn't even have to come into contact with a relativist to be taught relativism...

Children under 12, who have not yet developed a high capacity for abstract concepts, tend to be concrete thinkers. They learn about truth from those who love and care for them. Parents try to teach their children "the right way." Children also have other people — grandparents, babysitters, teachers, etc.

— authorized by Mom and Dad to present “the right way” in their absence. Now if everyone is saying the same thing, the child’s education usually goes well. But if someone is presenting the child with a different version of “the right way” than their parents, the child gets confused. Parents can usually resolve this problem by saying, for example, “Grandma is old-fashioned on that issue; don’t listen to her.” But if parents don’t resolve this conflict, then the child learns that truth is elastic.

This is what is happening in our public schools today. We’ve institutionalized the teaching of relativism because the people who dominate public schools hold a different world-view from many of the parents of the children who attend them. Both parents and teachers may be absolutists, but the child in the middle becomes a relativist in order to resolve their conflicting world-views. Too often, the child becomes someone who doesn’t believe in the existence of truth — including moral truth.

Recently, there was a piece in the *Washington Times* by a professor who was shocked to discover that 20% of college freshman believe that the Nazis should not be condemned for the Holocaust. After all, these students reasoned, they had been taught not to condemn the Aztecs for sacrificing humans, so why condemn the Nazis for slaughtering Jews? 20% of these students were so relativist in their thinking that they didn’t believe the Holocaust was wrong. We’re raising children to feel good about themselves while committing evil — because, to them, evil doesn’t exist.

Why do some people find relativism so appealing? Many feel that absolutists are bad. Absolutists are always getting into arguments and killing each other. Relativists think that the only way we’ll ever have tolerance is to abandon the concept of absolutes, such as right and wrong. They think that if everybody gets to have their own truth, then we can all live in peace and harmony.

What’s all this got to do with state schooling? Well, what do Maria Theresa, Horace Mann, Stalin and Mao have in

common? Answer: They all used state schooling to undermine their opposition. In 1774, Maria Theresa established Catholic state schools in the Austria-Hungarian Empire to undermine Protestant parents. Around 1834, Horace Mann, a Unitarian, sought to undermine Protestant and Catholic parents. Mao and Stalin wanted to undermine any and all theistic parents.

Essentially, that is what state schooling is *always* about: undermining parents who hold views at odds with those of the state. That’s the *nature* of public schooling. Whatever happens to be politically correct will be taught in public schools. How many German teachers resigned when Hitler came to power? Virtually none. They all said, “We got a new boss with a new ideology? All right, we’ll teach that!”

Here in America, we got along moderately well from the 1840s, when state schooling started, to the 1960s. Why? Because the Protestants were unable to undermine the Catholics because the Catholics started their own schools. Other religions did the same.

But that system was on a decline from the very beginning as it became increasingly less religious. By the turn of the century, God was removed from most

Proclamation for the Separation of School and State

Whereas more and more children are failing to grow into responsible, competent, caring adults, and *whereas* parents have the responsibility and the right to provide for an education for their children, and *whereas* independent schooling served Americans well from the 1620s to the 1840s, it is time to consider a return to the educational freedom from which the American republic was born.

Reform Cannot Fix Government-run Schools

A “common school system” — even if it is well funded and staffed with talented, caring teachers — cannot address the differing hopes Americans hold for their children.

In fact, government-run schools have divided communities into factions contending for control of school boards, textbooks and teaching methods. When the strongest factions use schools to shape attitudes or control the content of children’s minds, a society falls apart. How can young people build an academic foundation, a sense of purpose, and respect for teachers and parents in the midst of this turmoil? “Reform” of state schooling is not enough.

The Solution to the Education Crisis

To Solve the education crisis, we need only copy America’s experience with religious diversity. Americans enjoy a high degree of religious harmony because an earlier generation undid government compulsion in church funding and attendance.

Therefore, in a pluralistic society, we must undo government compulsion in school funding and attendance. Then we can preserve our diversity, restore parental responsibility, and enable students and teachers to flourish in an environment of educational freedom.

public schools. What state educators didn’t do was replace one set of absolutes with another; instead, they created a moral vacuum.

Now I’m not saying we should put moral teachings back into public schools. I’m saying that our public schools are producing too many sociopaths — people who do evil and feel good about themselves while they’re doing it. I suspect we’ve got one such individual in the White House right now — well, actually two! (*audience laughs*)

When discussing separating school and state, it’s amazing the number of people who go from “I’ve never heard that idea before” to “Wow, that makes a lot of sense!” in a flash. A couple years ago, I met Clarence Thomas. When I told him I was with the Separation of School and State Alliance, he said, “the separation of school and state,” thought about it for a second, then said, “I like that!” Last April, I met an esteemed Catholic priest, Father Paul Marks. When I told him the name of our group, he processed the

idea for a few moments, then said, “You’ve got a winner!” He even signed our proclamation.

Those people with reservations about separating school and state usually ask “What about the poor?” and “What about irresponsible parents?”

All right, what (*continued next page*)

Marshall Fritz

(continued from previous page)

about the poor? I want all children in America, especially the poor, to have the opportunity to attend better schools than they are today. I'm convinced that when poor children go to schools that are financed by their parents' tuition and charitable donations, that they will be getting a far, far better education than they are now in government-run schools.

And what about irresponsible parents? The widespread parental irresponsibility we're seeing in America is the direct result of our government's usurpation of parental responsibilities. When parents bring a child into the world, they are responsible for providing that child with food, clothing, shelter and education. But for 156 years, Americans have been taught to shirk that fourth responsibility. Now most Americans think that, when they have a child, that child has a right to

receive an education at other people's expense. That is every bit as irresponsible as saying to your neighbor: "Here's my new baby — now you pay for its food, clothing and medication!" This abdication by parents of

their responsibility to provide for their children's education is the linchpin of the welfare state. Accepting education welfare acclimates you to accepting other forms of welfare.

Do I believe there needs to be an organization to police parents sending their children to school? No. I believe every child's mind is as private as their soul, and that it's not the business of government to force things into that mind.

Recently, a friend of mine, a Republican assemblyman in Colorado, boasted of his efforts to establish good solid academic standards in his state's schools. So I said to him: "You're having the state set standards for what should be in a human being's mind. How do you



About 60 people attended R64's evening with Marshall Fritz.

distinguish that in any meaningful way from brainwashing?" Well, of course, he had no answer!

No, I don't believe you have the responsibility or the authority to decide what's in the mind of your neighbor's child. And if you combine your zero rights to your neighbor's child's mind with a million other people's zero rights, then you all still have zero rights to control your neighbor's child's mind.

"When discussing separating school and state, it's amazing the number of people who go from 'I've never heard that idea before' to 'Wow, that makes a lot of sense!' in a flash."

There are about 57,000 organizations working to reform public schools, and only one — The Separation of School and State Alliance — saying that public schools aren't broken, that they're doing exactly what they were created to do: undermine parents. Public schools aren't broken so they don't need to be fixed. They need to be replaced. We need to end government involvement in education. I ask you to join me in this, the most important part of the freedom movement in America.

* * *

To receive more information about the Separation of School and State Alliance, write: Separation Alliance, 4578 No. First #310, Fresno, CA 93726. You can also contact the alliance by phone at (209) 292-1776. Their website is located at <www.sepschool.org>. ■

Art Freedom, Not Funding

(continued from page 4)

\$99,494,000, of which \$16,980,000 was earmarked for "administrative funds" — a euphemism for bureaucrat salaries. True, this is just a drop in the bucket compared to the entire federal budget; but Congress needs to give taxpayers true relief by eliminating all welfare, including corporate subsidies, foreign aid — and the NEA.

The real tragedy is that government has taken over so many aspects of our lives that we are now discouraged from making voluntary charitable contributions, including subsidizing the arts. Of course, no one gives to the arts today — why should we? The government does it for us.

But the primary question remains: who should decide what is art? According to the NEA: "Popular culture does not necessarily reflect the most enduring expressions of a civilized society." In other words, what the majority of people think is art isn't art. Art isn't "popular." Art is appreciated by a select few but must be funded by all. That sentiment reeks of elitism — from an organization which is officially opposed to art being elitist!

All art is an expression of its creator, and should not be censored or regulated. And all art lovers should be free to support the art of their choice, not forced to support the art of others. The relationship between art-producers and art-consumers can only be corrupted by the coercive power of government. Let's eliminate the NEA and allow the arts to flourish.

* * *

This essay was originally published in the July 17th *L.A. Daily News*. It is reprinted here in an abridged form. ■



Proposition 198 Lawsuit

(continued from page 1)

Speaking for the LPC was Gail Lightfoot, LPC Chair when the lawsuit was filed in November 1996. When Mark Hinkle succeeded Lightfoot last February, he appointed her as his Special Assistant for Legal Affairs so she could continue to represent the party in the case.

"We are the Party of Principle," Lightfoot said before the court. "We don't want non-Libertarians having a choice in whom we nominate for public office. We want to be sure that our nominees, our candidates, are truly Libertarian in thought and action." She also read the opening paragraphs of the party's Statement of Principles to illustrate her point.

Richard Winger, long-time Libertarian activist, spoke as an expert witness on election law and minor parties. When asked about the percentage of voter turnout in Washington, he said that about as many voters turned out for the primary as for the general election. In California, the primary vote is considerably smaller than for the general. He also mentioned that there is about an 11-to-1 ratio of actual voters in the general elec-

tion to registered voters for minor parties because "few people are willing to register in minor parties."

Winger pointed out that because of the open primary, minor parties in Washington nominate their candidates by convention before the primary is held. Candidates have to get 1% of the primary



C.T. Weber of the Peace & Freedom Party, attorney George Waters, LPC witness Gail Lightfoot, and LPC activist Richard Wagner.

vote to go on to the general election.

Michael Schroeder, chair of the California Republican Party, and Art Torres, chair of the California Democratic Party, were equally adamant about the weakening effect on their parties. Both told of party rules that say only party members can vote for nominees.

They were followed by Richard Q. Boylan, director of Party Affairs and Delegate Selection for the Democratic National Committee. He said that the California delegation could not be seated at the Democratic National Convention under present rules if the blanket primary were in effect.

Garry McIntosh, the Elections Director for the Washington Secretary of State, was called on to testify about how the open primary works in his state. He said it is complicated because they have ballots for declared status and also unaffiliated (decline to state). A person doesn't have to change registration until the moment he or she arrives at the polling place and asks for a ballot. Minor parties nominate candidates by convention prior to the primary. If a candidate gets one percent of the vote, then they continue on to the general election. McIntosh said 7 individuals from minor parties qualified in 1996, and only 6 in 1992.

Judge Levi appeared concerned about the impact of the blanket primary on minor parties, occasionally asking witnesses what he thought would be the effect on them. He will hear closing oral arguments on October 3, and is expected to hand down his decision before the end of the year. ■

LPC Plan to End Budget Stalemate

(continued from page 3)

Part of the problem, according to Hinkle, is that budget negotiations are currently being conducted behind closed doors by Governor Pete Wilson and the Democratic and Republican leaders of both legislative houses — a group known as the "Big Five."

"The Big Five process not only excludes the rest of the legislature from budget negotiations, but the public as well. It's time to re-open the budget process to everyone so taxpayers can see where politicians are spending their hard-earned money."

As a result of the budget impasse, State Controller Kathleen Connell recently announced that over \$1 billion in State payments have been withheld from counties and vendors that work with the state.

"Why should vendors — operating in good faith with the State of California — suffer because our lawmakers can't make up their minds?" asked Hinkle. "How many families' lives are being adversely affected because they are not getting paid what they are owed when they are owed it?"

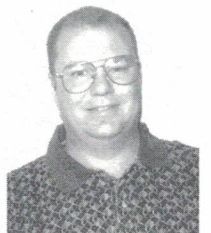
The LPC has consistently supported lower taxes and reduced spending in government. "If lawmakers persist in not giving Californians a budget, then it's time we reduced our spending — on politicians' salaries," said Hinkle. ■

Libertarian Runs for Major

John Ballard of Region 36 has announced his intention to run for Mayor of the city of San Bernardino.

"I want to provide an alternative to the mindless wasting of our tax dollars by Democrats and Republicans," said Ballard of his decision to run for office.

Anyone wishing to help or contribute to John Ballard's campaign can write the candidate at 2640 W. Rialto Ave. #42, San Bernardino, CA 92410. ■



John Ballard

For Your Information

Renewing Your Membership

Renewal notices are sent to members whose expiration date is coming up. Just return your dues payment in the accompanying envelope and your membership at the national, state, and local level will be renewed for one year. Please respond to renewal notices promptly so we don't need to send additional reminders — every additional notice costs money we could otherwise use to grow the party!

Address Changes

Be sure to let us know if you move! Send your address change notice to the national office so that your newsletters and other important correspondence can be sent to your new address. If you are moving out of state but want to continue as an LPC member or continue subscribing to *LPC Monthly*, please also notify the state office so we can make the necessary arrangements to keep you on our list.

Special Requests

If you need some special update to your membership records, such as a change in region affiliation, please contact the state office.

Address Labels

The address label on your copy of this newsletter provides important information relating to your membership records. On the top line of the label, you will find a six-digit number. Please mention this number in any correspondence relating to your membership.

On the same line you will also find a two-digit number identifying the LPC region with which you are affiliated. (If you are not a member but are receiving the newsletter for some other reason there will be a two-letter code instead.) See the listing on page 11 to find out the name of your region and who to contact for information about local activities.



Announcements

1999 Convention Bids

The LPC Excom announces that it is now officially accepting bids from contractors interested in organizing the 1999 LPC Convention. Traditionally, conventions are alternate between Southern and Northern California locations; because the 1998 Convention will be held in Los Angeles, the committee would prefer a Northern California site for the 1999 Convention. However, all bids are welcome. Interested parties should submit their bids to LPC Chair Mark Hinkle, 655 Lewelling Blvd. Ste. 362, San Leandro CA 94579-1844.

Candidates Needed

It's not too soon to plan for the 1998 election! Libertarians are needed to run for U.S. Congress, State Senate and State Assembly throughout California. Filing starts in January, but we need to plan ahead. If you are interested in running for public office as a Libertarian, contact Ted Brown at (818) 286-7817 or via e-mail at <tedb@mail.idt.net>.

Hemptown Festival

Northern California Libertarians are invited to attend the Hemptown Festival in San Francisco, which will feature an entire town built from hemp! Hemptown will have a mayor and a police chief. Stroll down Main Street and visit the pizza parlor, a hemp seed cafe, a beauty salon, a store that sells hemp paper, a Hemptown University, dozens of vendors selling hemp products, three stages of live entertainment, speakers, music, comedy, poetry readings, and more. Best of all, admission is FREE! Date: August 23, 1997. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Location: Chrissy Field at The Presidio, just east of the Golden Gate Bridge.) For more information, contact the Cannabis Action Network at (510) 486-8083.

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Next Month:

*Charles Murray
Speaks to L.A.
Libertarians*

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tobin.html

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Yolo (R57)

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- \$1000 Life

Plus additional contribution to LPC:

- \$ ____ Monthly Pledge
- \$ ____ One-time Donation

Total:

Payment:

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- Visa Mastercard
- Credit Card #: _____
- Expiration Date: _____
- Name on Card: _____
- Signature: _____

The Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle. To assure and affirm that our party never strays from its principles, we request our members to sign the pledge below. (Non-signers cannot vote on party business.)

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature: _____