

MINORITY REPORT

submitted by Lee Schubert

The Platform Committee has labored for several months to produce a suitable state platform for the FLP. During this time, several things have become apparent to me.

First, it became obvious that no single draft could command the support of the entire committee. The differences of opinion were simply too basic to allow that.

Second, it appeared to several members that the type of platform which would be accepted by a bare majority of the committee took a position very close to one extreme within the spectrum of beliefs represented within the party. They therefore decided to prepare and submit a "compromise" or "centrist" platform. The specific aim of these committee members, of which I was one, was to produce a document which expressed neither the limited government position nor the anarchist position, but was consistent with both. It was intended to be a sort of umbrella under which all members of the FLP could live comfortably.

Finally, I became personally convinced that this compromise project was impossible to achieve. Although I helped write the minority platform myself, I no longer believe that either that platform or any other can provide an acceptable statement of the board spectrum of perspectives within our party. The specific problem is that any such compromise must inevitably offend many party members both to its right and to its left, while the particular collection of opinions it sets forth will not coincide with the exact views of any substantial numbers of members.

I am therefore proposing that there be no state platform. This is the one course which will enable the FLP to remain a party for all libertarians, and which will leave our candidates free to develop their own statements of goals and principles upon which to base their campaigns.

When the Platform Committee submits the final drafts of its majority and minority reports, my report will be in the form of a recommendation of a vote for "no plank" on each and every plank submitted to the convention. This form will comply with the requirement of the by-laws that all substitutions be offered as complete planks.

I am firmly convinced that this proposal will save the party from many severe and totally unnecessary problems. It is the one way to make certain that no libertarian is written out of the party. There is no value in the mere appearance of unity for its own sake. We should look to our members for the true expression of their various libertarian views, not for lip service to a platform. The statement of principals contained in the FLP by-laws is the only official statement necessary.