



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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Late Flurry of Scare Tactics Beats Term Limit; Washington State Initiative Linked to LP

An initiative to limit the number of terms politicians may serve was defeated in Washington State this month, amid desperate claims by its opponents that the initiative was being supported by Libertarian billionaire outsiders.

The initiative was predicted to pass, based on earlier polls; however, the political establishment's last-minute barrage apparently turned the tide.

A large number of media reports—from Washington State media, as well as the *New York Times*, CNN, and other national media outlets—publicized during the final weeks of the campaign that the initiative had received heavy financial support from former LP Vice Presidential candidate David Koch, his

brother Charles, and the Washington, D.C.-based Citizens for Congressional Reform (CCR), described as a right-wing lobbying group with ties to the libertarian Cato Institute.

Congressman Jim McDermott of Washington State delivered a long speech on the floor of the Congress, attacking the measure as a libertarian attempt to dismantle government. The speech quoted from the LP Platform and had numerous inaccuracies, including claims that the LP was behind the term limitation initiative and that the LP had not won "a single office" in its history. McDermott went on to compare the LP's views with those of political extremist David Duke.

LP National Chair Mary Gingell responded with an Open Letter to McDermott, released to the media, demanding an apology for the slanderous comments.

Numerous news commentary/discussion shows, including CNN's Crossfire and PBS's MacNeil-Lehrer, centered on the term limits issue during the weeks before the election. Former LP National Director Paul Jacob, now Term Limitation Project Director for CCR, debated the issue with William Proxmire. The debate ran several times on C-SPAN.

Efforts are currently underway to place Term Limit Initiatives on the ballot in a number of states in 1992. Many of those efforts are being supported by CCR.

CORRECTION

Last month's article about Dr. David McCann's election results contained several inaccuracies, which we regret. Thanks to Richard Winger for correcting us. It should have read as follows:

McCann's results set a record for the best showing for a third party candidate in a two-way race *in California* since 1936 and the best showing by a Libertarian Party candidate *for the state legislature, outside Alaska, since 1980.*

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Libertarian presidential effort is rooted in Jefferson's ideals

Submitted by Nancy Lord

The Internal Revenue Service can be eliminated. So promises Nancy Lord, vice presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party. You don't have to agree with her to find her proposals a fresh contrast to the usual state political air.

How can the country afford to lay off the IRS? Lord explains: "We don't need a personal income tax. Eliminate it and we still have as much money as we had in 1986." That is the main post of Lord's platform: Do less with less.

She accuses the public-assistance bureaucracy of being "poverty pimps" who set up a system that makes it unprofitable to work your way off welfare. The officials in the bureaucracy are living very well, she points out, while their clients have little chance of escaping impoverishment.

"We've regulated small business almost out of existence, and cut off the first rungs of the ladder out of poverty."

By greatly reducing taxes, people would have more cash to donate to charity. The result would be a more humane society, she says, and certainly not anarchy, just the limited government envisioned by Thomas Jefferson. Protect the weak, keep the streets safe, enforce anti-discrimination laws to correct past abuses, but don't run to the federal government demanding a solution for every little problem.

What about a little problem like retirement and Social Security? "It's a Ponzi scheme."

Charles Ponzi was an immigrant who made millions in 1919 by using the money of new investors to pay back old. Lord says the federal government should plan to pay veteran workers as promised, but should get out of the Social Security pyramid scheme and give young workers the freedom to invest in private retirement plans that are more financially secure than the government's plan. Also, flooding private markets with workers' retirement investments would sharply lower interest rates and boost the economy.

The Libertarians see little that cannot be improved by less government, even the crime problem.

"I live in Washington, D.C., which has the toughest gun laws in the country. If you have a hunting rifle in your house, you can't even put it together if you hear someone breaking in. In Switzerland, people can have machine guns and they only have eight murders."

No gun laws? Wouldn't that be a return to the Wild West? "Now we have more violence than in the Wild West."

Lord, 39, is both a medical doctor and a lawyer. She suggests lifting federal drug restrictions

and letting people buy whatever they please at the pharmacy, with recreational drugs sold like liquor in stores.

"What we're doing isn't working. Helicopters and boats, drug agents dressed up like cactus. We're spending a huge amount of money on nonsense. Drug laws are making sellers very rich. They are using children because children won't go to jail. If we sell drugs in liquor stores, at least it would keep it out of the hands of kids."

While the major parties are trying to think of workable national-health plans, Lord is appalled. "National health care doesn't work. It creates an unlimited demand. In Canada, patients are waiting five months for pap smears and other routine procedures. National health care works very well unless you get sick."

Her idea is to give people the option of diagnosing their own illness and prescribing their own drugs. People could still visit doctors of their choice. Malpractice and other civil offenses would still be punished through the courts, and that threat is enough to keep advertisers honest and the professions ethical and competent.

The issue of which foreign nations to assist would be easily solved. "Eliminate all foreign aid. Put America first. What are we doing in Germany? But we should defend American interests and be prepared to defend ourselves."

Public schools would cease to exist as we know them. "Set up a voucher system. The money follows the student. Each school sets its own agenda."

She envisions military schools, religious schools, conservative schools, liberal schools, dance schools, and so on, all competing for students and the tax dollars each student would automatically bring.

Prostitution and gambling would become nobody's business but your own. "Petty rules are part of the problem. They make you feel like a child. There's nothing moral about refraining from doing something just because you're afraid you'll go to jail."

Of course a president doesn't have the power to change laws. That's the job of Congress, the state legislatures, and city and county governments, which represent people in the habit of saying, "There ought to be a law."

Libertarian ideas self-evident to the nation's founders now form the platform of a fringe party having trouble getting on the ballot in many states. But you don't have to vote Libertarian to appreciate the party's message that government, even the IRS, belongs to the voters.

Submitted by Jim McClarin

GOP puzzled over high Libertarian tally

By J.P. TREMBLAY
UNION CAPITOL BUREAU

As the two newest Assembly members were sworn in Wednesday afternoon, political observers tried to figure out what the 5th Assembly District election returns really mean.

In the contest that was clearly meant to be a Republican cakewalk with no Democrat in the race, newly elected B.T. Collins, R-Carmichael, lost some ground to Libertarian David McCann, who gave his minority party its best election results in recent state history.

"This is the first time a Libertarian has performed so well," said a spokeswoman for the Secretary of State's Office.

Prior to Tuesday night, the highest tally a Libertarian garnered was 27.15 percent in November 1990, when Joe Shea ran against Rep. Duncan Hunter in San Diego in a race that also had no Democrat.

Final results in Tuesday's special election runoff gave Mr. Collins a comfortable 62.2 percent with 19,377 votes, but Dr. McCann's 37.8 percent with 11,760 votes was a surprise to many.

Depending on who's talking, the results were only a fluke because of the low voter turnout or a strong backlash against Gov. Wilson, higher taxes and Mr. Collins.

"I had been warned by a conservative Republican legislator that this was going to happen and not to worry," said

Mr. Collins, noting that the 14.1 percent turnout was lower than he would have liked.

The strong Libertarian showing appears to have been supported by "the anti-Wilson, the anti-tax, anti-B.T. feeling in some voters," he said, unable to pinpoint which drew the biggest negative vote for him.

Some groups that had backed conservative Republican Barbara Alby, who ran second to Mr. Collins in the July primary, threw their support to the Libertarian in the runoff.

"I would have thought that we would have had a better turnout, but it's tough to get people out for special elections," Mr. Collins said.

"It's a pretty stunning protest vote,"

said Wayne Johnson, a conservative Republican campaign consultant who represented one of Mr. Collins' GOP primary opponents.

"That's purely a barometer of people's dissatisfaction, not necessarily with B.T. . . . but it's a way for people to send a message" about taxes and the way the Legislature is working, he said.

He noted that during the 1990 elections some third party candidates picked up steam along with support for Proposition 140, the term-limit initiative.

Mr. Collins' campaign consultant, Ray McNally, said the big problem Mr. Collins had was that "everybody assumed he was going to win and that's a horrible position to be in.

"People just really weren't interested in that race . . . I talked to elected officials who didn't know when the election was," he said.

The trouble with a dispassionate voting public and a race that is viewed as one that has already been decided is that the only people who turn out are the ones who are motivated, Mr. McNally said.

"When you get down to this stage of the game, you're dealing with some hard-core voters," Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Collins and Mickey Conroy, R-Santa Ana, were both sworn in Wednesday afternoon and came to Sacramento immediately so they could vote on the reapportionment plans the Legislature is supposed to consider today.

Free speech has limits

7th-grader's 'political' views on drug war curbed

By David Bank
Mercury News Staff Writer

When 12-year-old Allen Hoffman Jr. took some newspaper articles with an unconventional viewpoint on the war on drugs to Crittenden Middle School in Mountain View this week, Vice Principal Len Jacques just said no.

The precocious seventh-grader was pulled out of class, brought to Jacques' office, forced to hand over the articles and told not to bring the material onto school grounds again.

"I told him, 'Anything that alludes to political statements that

you believe in, or your dad believes in, you can't profess to other kids," Jacques said in an interview.

The articles included a column in the Mercury News written by former San Jose Police Chief Joseph McNamara that concluded the war on drugs is being lost. They also included reprints from the Pittsburgh Press that detailed abuses of police powers in the seizure of assets from suspected drug dealers.

"If I were old enough to vote, I'd vote Libertarian," Allen said he has been raising questions about the accuracy of the

school's anti-drug programs since he was in fifth grade, challenging statements that marijuana has no medical uses and suggesting that legalization of drugs would eliminate much criminal activity.

None of his classmates shares his views, he said. But he gets lots of support from his father, also a Libertarian.

"It seems that my son's civil liberties were directly violated," the older Hoffman said. "He's expressed himself before and gotten into trouble."

The younger Hoffman brought the articles to school after a dis-

ussion of constitutional rights in his social studies class. Allen said his teacher had promised to read the articles.

On Monday, Allen was showing some of the articles to a friend during the short "advisory" period before his first period math class. When class started, Jacques went to the classroom and brought Allen back to his office. Allen said Jacques took the material and said he could retrieve it after school.

"But he said I couldn't bring it back to school because, by reading it, other kids could see it and get interested in it," Allen said. "If it



Karen T. Borchers — Mercury News
MINORITY OPINION — Allen Hoffman Jr. shows one of the publications that officials told him not to circulate at school.

was DARE-stuff (drug abuse resistance education, a police-sponsored program for fifth-graders) or 'Just Say No,' he wouldn't care . . ."

Principal Jim Lianides said Allen was free to bring any material he wanted and share it with classmates at recess and lunch.

Submitted by K. Curl

Santa Monica Outlook
Sept. 6, 1991.
Submitted by R. Weber

Activists mark 'Jury Rights Day'

By Pat Alston
STAFF WRITER

When jurors are chosen for a trial in California, they take an oath to "well and truly" try the case and render a verdict based on the evidence and the law.

Their primary obligation, however, should be to their conscience, said members of the Libertarian Party, who gathered Thursday in front of the Santa Monica courthouse in recognition of "Jury Rights Day."

It's a jury's right to interpret the law and render a verdict accordingly, even if the panel's judgment is in conflict with the law, they said.

"We want them to know the full extent of their rights and powers," said Bob Weber of Culver City, chairman of the West Los Angeles chapter of the Libertarian Party.

"In all criminal trials, the jury is to

be judge of all matters of fact and law," Weber said.

Nearby, about half a dozen demonstrators carried signs that read, "Jurors can change the law" and "Juries, vote your conscience."

In California, as in many states, a jury's verdict must be based upon the evidence presented to them during trial and the instructions of the court. Jurors are not given authority to reject a point of law if they think it's unfair or does not apply to the case at hand.

"The jurors should interpret what the law is and what harm has been committed," said John Vernon, a member of California's Libertarian Party executive committee.

Indiana, Iowa and Montana are among the states that have written such rights into their state constitutions, said Vernon, who is in the food catering business. The governors of

those three states issued declarations identifying Thursday as "Jury Rights Day."

The date of Sept. 5 also commemorates the trial of Quaker minister William Penn in 1680 for preaching an "illegal religion" and the imprisonment of four members of the jury for returning an "innocent" verdict, Vernon said.

"There are a great many laws (today) that fall into the same category," he added, citing marijuana possession as an example of a law that many people don't think should be a crime. Prohibitionists never enjoyed a conviction rate to buck up laws against the sale and use of alcohol during the 1920s, he added.

Inside the courthouse, Superior Court Judge James Albracht said he can appreciate the demonstrators' concerns, particularly when it comes to laws that appear to be overly harsh and seemingly unfair.

To place the responsibility for interpretation of state law in the hands of 12 laymen, however, "would be horrible," said the former prosecutor and nine-year veteran of the bench.

"The implications of that are monstrous," Albracht said.

"We have historical precedent on our side," insisted Weber, a motion picture industry chemist.

Weber cited as his authority long-held canons of English Common Law and the United States Constitution. Except in a smattering of states, however, such jury rights are seldom upheld, he said.

Legislators who write the laws do not represent the wishes of the majority of the population, added Larry Leathers, a party member and Redondo Beach insurance agent.

"The U.S. Constitution intended for jurors to vote their conscience," Leathers said.

Wash. Times, 10/1/91

WILLIAM MURCHISON WT (10/1/91)

The evil diaper and other fables

The National Center for Policy Analysis has performed a signal service to Americans who go in the night, like Nicodemus, to chunk aluminum cans into the trash; who swathe their children's rubicund rears in disposable diapers; who spend whole days without fretting over Styrofoam; who, in short, by current standards, deport themselves like environmental beasts.

The think tank's new study, "A Consumer's Guide to Environmental Myths and Realities," is not a summons to despoil our environmental heritage; it is an argument for common sense and reason in thinking about these matters. High time, some of us would say.

"Americans," writes Lynn Scarlett, "are being besieged with advice on how to be 'good environmentalists.' Advice on what products to buy and what actions to take is routinely given to consumers, legislators and even schoolchildren. The problem is, the advice is often wrong and, if followed, could cause environmental harm."

We hear: "Recycling is good"; "Plastics are bad"; "Don't buy disposables." In Sportin' Life's famous formulation, it ain't necessarily so.

Why not? Well, look just at the landfill situation, says Miss Scarlett, who is research vice president for the Reason Foundation. The garbage we'll generate for the next 1,000 years would fill less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the country's surface area. "Anyone who has looked from an airplane at the Western part of the United States knows there is plenty of land where we might store the next 1,000 years' worth of garbage with little inconvenience or health hazard to nearby residents." That's true not just in Arizona but in New York and the Pacific Northwest, which already have identified major landfill sites.

The real problem is humans. Some communities hold their noses at the idea of landfills. Governments

pass restrictive legislation. New Jersey, under a 1976 statute, regulates disposal rates. There is no incentive to invest in new landfills. Nor do most cities charge customers the true cost of garbage disposal. This creates disincentives to reduce the amount of garbage.

Ah, and those diapers! Disposables are scourged as wasteful. Ahem; I step forward to offer my own expertise, having changed and rinsed in my time a thousand cloth diapers. Whose idea of fun is this? Aesthetics aside, Miss Scarlett tells us that cloth diapers consume over their lifetime six times more water than disposables and require more than three times as much energy. Some say disposables are healthier. They also may improve the quality of life. Ahem; I think for various reasons (including, as Thyne would say, "Tra-dition!") I probably still like cloth better, but why should parents with different sentiments be made to feel shame and remorse?

Line 'em up, myth after my'th: Lynn Scarlett takes careful aim.

• The myth of American waste-fulness: "Careful studies show that the amount of waste we generate per person may have been virtually constant over the past two decades." We generate a mere 7 percent more solid waste than Japan.

• The myth of the Evil Plastic: Without plastics, energy consumption and garbage disposal would double. Plastic is essential in food distribution.

• The let's-recycle-everything myth: "Recycling itself can cause environmental harm, e.g., more fuel consumption and more air pollution." As for paper, "Recycling paper doesn't save trees, it reduces incentives to plant them."

Whence these comfortable myths? Partly from our own good intentions. I would guess, and from our nervousness about the spoiled quality of our society. We long for the fragrant forests through which Daniel Boone stalked, bound for the Cumberland Gap. Horse manure smells better — in the imagination — than gasoline. These are myths of a deeper, more persistent sort.

Safeguarding the environment is a dicey and difficult business, but blaming America and blaming business and blaming thoughtless consumers — as so many do today — gets us nowhere. Lynn Scarlett, by contrast, gets us somewhere. She sits us down and lays out the facts and figures. It sure makes for a nice change.

William Murchison, a columnist for the Dallas Morning News, is nationally syndicated.

LIBERTARIAN OUTLOOK

Register and vote Libertarian

GERALD SCHNEIDER
Guest Columnist

Wheaton Record 9/12/91
Wheaton, MD

Libertarians are on the ballot in Maryland, and you can now register as and vote for Libertarians! Ballot status was achieved the hard way, through petition by voters, to overcome unfair ballot access laws set up by Republican and Democratic party legislators. Your registration and vote can gain continuing ballot status for Libertarians (three percent of the vote does it).

Why vote for the lesser of evils among Democrats and Republicans when your Libertarian vote brings something better? Call the Elections Board now and make the change: 217-6450.

The Libertarian Presidential candidate is Andre Marrou. Marrou is a former elected Libertarian state legislator from Alaska now living in Nevada. As the Libertarian Party's Vice Presidential candidate in 1988, Mr. Marrou campaigned in all 50 states and D.C. His reasoned response to questions, and his views on issues, have earned him respect from the media. He is worth your vote!

Dr. Nancy Lord, who received much media attention when she ran for Mayor of D.C. last year, is the Libertarian Vice-Presidential candidate this time. A medical doctor and lawyer with a no-nonsense approach to issues, she has the respect of media as does Mr. Marrou.

Voting for Mr. Marrou and Dr. Lord will count in getting the Libertarian Party recognition and permanent ballot status! What can you expect from a vote for a Republican or Democrat? Be the one that makes the difference between politics as usual and the politics of freedom of Libertarians.

Readers new to my column may be unaware of what the Libertarian Party stands for. In brief, Libertarians are purists on individual civil liberties, economic choice, free trade, and a nonintervention foreign policy.

Persons wanting more information about the Libertarian Party and its candidates can telephone the Party's National Headquarters in D.C.: (202) 543-1988. Locally, you can reach the state and county libertarian Party at 951-0539.

Wall Street Journal
Editorial Page
Oct. 1991

Needle points

Did you notice that the Libertarian Party candidate, David McCann, running against moderate Republican B.T. Collins up north, got a higher percentage of the votes than the Democratic candidate opposing Republican Mickey Conroy here in Orange County? Sure, there was no Democrat in the Collins race. But the overall result can hardly be reassuring to the tax-and-spend crowd.