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LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

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Ballot Drives On Schedule; California Now On Agenda

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Libertarian Party's ambitious goal of achieving ballot status for Roger MacBride and David Bergland in 33 states is on schedule. In March, LP groups in Ohio and Kentucky filed the necessary signatures, and in April, Louisiana and New Jersey brought the total to five states. Utah gained LP ballot status last year.

MacBride campaign manager Bob Meier expects filings of petitions in Michigan, North Dakota, Hawaii, Tennessee, and Mississippi shortly. "All things considered," said Meier, "our people are doing a tremendous job on these petition drives."

Most of the ballot drives are beset by two problems — lack of experience and unfamiliarity with the technicalities of complying with state election laws. So far, only in Nebraska has this resulted in a failure to obtain ballot status where it had been expected.

Two months ago, there was virtually no hope of making it on the ballot in Alabama. The situation there has changed, however, because of the work of Libertarians in Alabama and surrounding states. They submitted 2000 more than the required 5000 signatures and are now awaiting verification of those signatures from Alabama's secretary of state. At last report over 4500 had been approved.

Ohio Coverage

The major media covered the petition filing in Ohio as Roger MacBride accompanied state MFPC Chairperson Bill MacReynolds to the secretary of state's office. The Ohio LP gathered 9341 signatures to meet its requirement of 5000. In Kentucky, the secretary of state gave formal notification to Marty and Bobbi Jahn that the LP had met the requirements for ballot status.

New Jersey needed only 800 signatures

to qualify the LP statewide, and the LP gathered these with little trouble. In that state the LP may have as many as eleven candidates for federal office on the ballot.

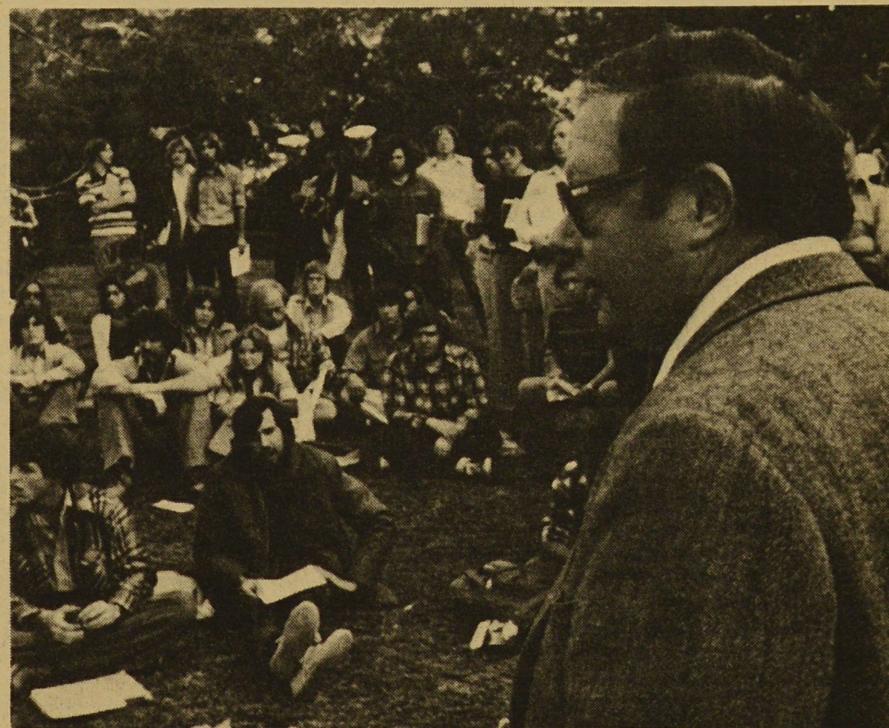
"The best news I've heard in weeks" was the reaction of Roger MacBride when informed of a dramatic change in California's ballot access law. The California LP is the largest in the nation, is one of the best organized, and has been pursuing legal redress through a suit seeking a lowering of the most onerous ballot requirement in the nation. Favorable legislative action was not expected. "This could mean that our suit will bring a favorable decision as well," said Ray Cunningham, LPC Chairperson.

New Rules

The new law sets the rules for ballot status for independents and requires just under 100,000 signatures. To obtain a ballot position for a party, the requirement in California at present is over 600,000 signatures. Cunningham hopes the LP's suit will reduce the barriers to ballot access for parties to a figure comparable to the new requirement for independents. "Either way," says Cunningham, "we now have our first opportunity to get libertarians on the ballot statewide, and we're going to give it everything we've got." Journalist Lynn Kinsky is the LP candidate for the U.S. Senate in California.

Other good news in terms of possible ballot status was a U.S. Supreme Court decision that will enable the Pennsylvania LP to conduct a ballot drive. "It's still no easy task," said state Chairperson Jo Chernow, "but at least we now have a chance."

Some state LPs that originally had not



ISSUES & POLICIES—LP presidential nominee Roger L. MacBride meets informally with students on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles.

considered trying to get on the ballot are now going ahead with petition drives. They include Massachusetts, North Carolina, Montana, and South Carolina. If any of those state organizations were to meet the requirements for ballot status, this would add to the 33 state total expected by MacBride's staff.

Difficult Drives

Some of the more difficult drives that are now underway or about to start and where ballot status is expected are in Texas,

Arizona, Nevada, Connecticut, Indiana, and Illinois. If any of those ballot drives were to fail to meet the requirements, the total of 33 would be reduced.

Meanwhile, candidates MacBride and Bergland continue to campaign throughout the country. In March, MacBride campaigned in no less than eight states and twenty-four cities. As has been the case since the first of the year, media coverage at the local level has been excellent. The

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Major Media Spotlight MacBride

Campaign Sparks National Coverage of Libertarianism

Three recent major media articles on the MacBride campaign for the presidency provide a dramatic demonstration of the national significance of the libertarian political movement.

The first, and the best of these articles was in the **National Observer** of Mar. 6. Written by Edwin A. Roberts, Jr., the piece was titled "The Presidential Candidate for Maximum Liberty."

Roberts's positive analysis of MacBride and the Libertarian Party platform went on from there.

Roberts demonstrated a keen appreciation for the LP message, starting with a brief analysis of the mood of the nation.

Gauging Consciousness

While admitting that it was impossible to gauge the consciousness of 200 million individual Americans, he stated that "the nation has finally wearied of high cost projects by government at all levels."

From this basis, Roberts concluded that "1976 may be the ideal year for the young, brave, and idealistic Libertarian Party to put forth a Presidential candidate."

Speaking of MacBride, Roberts said, "His views are like fresh air — almost like straight oxygen — and he has been winning converts from the liberal and conservative camps at a surprising rate."

This phrase — "His views are like fresh

air — almost like straight oxygen" — was the legend under MacBride's photograph, shown prominently in the body of the article.

Roberts attempted to share the undiluted message of the Libertarian Party by quoting directly from the LP platform on the issues of property rights, discrimination, and subsidies.

Roberts ended his article with the following insight: "The Republicans and Democrats are filled with men who most of all seek power over the lives of other men. The Libertarians, on the other hand, say they want to give us more control over our own lives and property."

High Visibility

Somewhat less analytical, but far more visible, was the Mar. 29 feature on MacBride in People magazine, written by Penny Ward. Here an extremely popular magazine put the Libertarian party effort on a par with Susan Ford, Glenn Campbell, and Teddy Kennedy. This indicates what public recognition has been achieved by the MacBride campaign.

Ward's piece concentrated on clever photographs (e.g., MacBride emerging from his DC-3) and the candidate's well-publicized relationship with the Little House on the Prairie television series.

Ward did, however, give a popularized

account of the libertarian message, comparing the "pioneer spirit" of the TV series with the basic LP motivation.

Mass Audience

The article managed to convey a basic description of the LP to its mass audience, quoting MacBride's description of the party as a combination of "the best of McGovern and Goldwater." The article helped introduce the MacBride candidacy and the party to many of the American voters the LP is attempting to reach.

The most recent major coverage of the MacBride campaign was an article in the **New York Times** of Monday, Apr. 19. It spanned six columns, and was titled "Libertarian Candidate Would Burn Federal Check Providing Campaign Fund."

The writer, Linda Charlton, was clearly skeptical of some LP positions — but was equally clearly impressed by the consistency of these positions.

Charlton's main theme was MacBride's refusal to accept federal campaign money: "I would whip out my Zippo and burn up the check," says MacBride in the article.

A brief history of MacBride and the Libertarian Party was provided, as was a summary of LP positions on certain issues. The most significant of these, according to Charlton, was the libertarian insistence that private charity would supplant public welfare if given the chance.

The Libertarian Party News
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From the Chair

Cracking Barriers To Communication

So far so good. Ballot drives are being run by enthusiastic, responsible people, and volunteer petition gatherers are turning up everywhere. Whereas a year ago I felt that ballot status in 20 states in 1976 would be quite an accomplishment, today it looks as if we will be on in a minimum of 30 states. It's possible that we will be on in 40 states.

The main need right now is funds to pay for full-time petition circulators. There are about a dozen states that could go either way in terms of ballot status. As few as two or three full-time workers could make the difference in each of these states. All of which is to encourage you to respond generously to the fund-raising letter you should have received recently.

If we're on the ballot in 35 states or more, it is almost certain that Roger MacBride will have opportunities to appear on national television programs. As many people have commented, MacBride has the ability to express the truly radical nature of libertarianism in a manner that conveys to

Introduction to Libertarianism

Our Premise Is Liberty

David Bergland

(Editor's Note: The following introduction to the Libertarian Party and its policy proposals was written by LP Vice Presidential nominee David P. Bergland. It appeared in the Jan. 4 Costa Mesa (Calif.) Daily Pilot.)

What is the Libertarian Party, and why should you care?

In recent years, U.S. citizens have observed the tragedy of the Southeast Asian war, Watergate, New York City's bankruptcy, rampant welfare fraud, and the nefarious activities of the FBI, the CIA and the IRS. Government policy caused them all.

The American people are justifiably disaffected by a government that is huge, costly, outrageously inefficient, and egregiously intrusive. Traditional politicians (of all parties and persuasions) have encouraged voters for decades to ask government to solve all problems, promising that all would be solved. Government-oriented solutions have not solved the original problems; they have created worse ones.

Nothing but more of the same can be expected from the current Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. All thinking people realize this, and seek an alternative to traditional politics. There is one, and only one, alternative: the Libertarian Party, with its Presidential candidate, Roger MacBride. The Libertarian Party, founded in 1971 and now organized in all states, expects to have ballot status in 31 states in the 1976 presidential election.

Ideals Of 1976

The Libertarian Party has a clearly defined political philosophy (derived from the ideals of 1776) and a refreshing, new approach. Libertarians hold that you, and each other individual, are an end in yourself, and not some "national resource" to be disposed of by bureaucratic whim.

Each individual has the right to make all the decisions about his (or her) life, recognizing and respecting the equal rights of others. The use (or threat) of force as a means for dealing with other persons is improper.

Proper Function

The only proper function of government is to assist the individual to protect his life, liberty and honestly acquired property from others who would violate his rights.

The Libertarian Party platform is based on these clear principles. Compare this to traditional politicians, whose only princi-

the average person in the street how eminently logical and feasible our philosophy is.

Guessing Game

A popular guessing game among libertarians these days is to estimate the number of votes the MacBride/Bergland ticket will receive in November. We hear numbers ranging from 200,000 (by those anti-politics types who still don't believe the libertarian movement has grown out of the living room bull session) to 20 million (by LP headquarters staff toward the end of a Friday night beer bust).

The actual number will undoubtedly lie somewhere between those two extremes, of course. Nonetheless, the more time I have spent campaigning with Roger and on my own, the more convinced I become that the vast majority of Americans can be converted to libertarianism in time.

Watching Roger at news conferences turn cynically bemused reporters into respectful, intellectually curious journalists

asking questions as much for their own benefit as for their readers, is just one example of how libertarianism can change the attitudes of America.

If every American voter were to spend five minutes each with Roger MacBride, Jerry Ford, and Hubert Humphrey (I use the latter two names to symbolize the Republican and Democratic nominees — any of the candidates of those two parties are philosophically interchangeable), I'm certain we would have a Libertarian president in 1977.

Paper Tiger

Our opposition is a paper tiger, a facade that is in the process of crumbling and which will one day reveal what an intellectually and morally bankrupt system of government we have. The growing recognition by Americans that government is the major impediment to a free and prosperous society is hastening the arrival of that day. And the difference between 200,000 votes and 20 million votes is perhaps not as great as it

might at first appear.

People are intrigued by what we're saying. When the day comes that we reach the necessary "critical mass" of support, people will join us by the millions.

The interesting thing is that libertarianism is considered unique primarily because it is so consistent. Except for our non-interventionist foreign policy, there is nothing in our philosophy that is not fundamentally accepted by one end of the temporary political spectrum or the other. As evidence of this I recently had occasion to witness two widely divergent audiences get first exposures to hardcore libertarianism.

Similar Reactions

I was struck by the similarity of the reactions of both groups. The first event was Roger MacBride's speech to Lee Edward's conservative lunch club, which meets weekly in Washington, D.C. Here were 50 or so veterans of the good fight — champions of a conservative cause that had suffered so many years of defeats on Capitol Hill that they really don't even think about winning anymore. Worse, they have increasingly come to the point where they're not sure exactly what they're trying to win anyway.

Conservatism — at least as found in this group — has painted itself into a corner where the only thing it is sure it stands for is the danger of the Red Menace. After MacBride's articulate speech in which he outlined the libertarian position on economics, civil liberties and foreign policy, the only thing the group concerned itself with was foreign policy. What about the Communists? How can Europe take care of itself? And what about Japan? Etc.

Now, there are two things of importance here. The first is that these conservatives completely overlooked the fact that they had just listened to a candidate for President of the United States talk about free market economics in a manner that no other candidate will come close to this year. These people, who undoubtedly consider themselves the bearers of the torch of free enterprise, seemed oblivious to the fact that MacBride had convincingly defended the free market on moral and practical grounds, discussing how government intervention in the economy is the source of both inflation and recession.

Polite Approach

Here was a man politely demonstrating the proper, intelligent way to argue for a free economy, and Lee Edward's defenders of God and Country could talk only about the Commies. Perhaps they felt they had nothing to learn about economics. After all, at that very moment their own champion of free enterprise, Ronald Reagan, was in Wisconsin discussing the need for milk price supports.

The second point is that the main barrier to communication with the conservative movement is an outdated, Cold War mentality toward world affairs that is simply so unrealistic that it must eventually die of its own irrelevance. Once it does, conservatives will properly become students of libertarianism. For if their main concern is the free market, we have much to teach them.

The evening before MacBride's speech I gave a talk at Vassar College in New York. The YLA group there had invited me to speak, and a crowd of about 60 students and professors was present. My presentation was similar to MacBride's (in content, not quality) in that I covered the three major areas of the LP platform.

Liberal Orientation

At Vassar (endowed largely with Rockefeller money) the audience was predictably liberal in orientation. Here the questions centered exclusively on economics. Laissez faire leads to monopolies, doesn't

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Capitol Commentary

What's Happening In Washington

Alan Bock

S.1 In Deep Trouble

S.1, the gargantuan and oppressive "revision and recodification" of the Federal Criminal Code, is in serious trouble and it now appears that chances for passage this year are quite poor. Politics can be surprising, and some sudden moves or compromises are still possible, but it now appears that S.1 will not be muscled through even the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Briefly, here's the situation. S.1 has passed the Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee and been referred to the full Senate Judiciary Committee. Opposition and objections to the bill have been mounted and articulated to such an extent, however, that there are not enough votes in the full Judiciary Committee to pass the bill in its present form. Sponsors of the bill and Senate leaders of both parties have been pushing for enough compromises to get some kind of bill out of committee, but negotiations have broken down.

Among the compromises accepted by S.1's sponsors were a partial decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana, repeal of the 1940 Smith Act, and cutbacks in the number of crimes for which wiretaps are authorized. In addition the sponsors dropped the so-called "Watergate Defense" which would have immunized government employees from prosecution if they thought they were acting on lawful orders from superiors. The provision making it a crime to divulge classified information would also have been dropped.

Credit for holding up S.1 should go to a broad-based coalition of liberal and leftist groups including the ACLU, the Jesuit Conference Office of Social Ministries, the Committee Against Repressive Legislation, and the National Council of Churches. Few libertarians played an important role in the actual battle, though most libertarians who were aware of the bill were firmly opposed.

Establishment Conservatives

On the right, most Establishment conservatives were for the bill, though the support was lukewarm, except on the staffs of McClellan, Hruska, and others directly involved in drafting the bill. Some anti-Establishment conservatives were beginning to have some doubts about S.1, and a move to begin studying it from the standpoint of Constitutionalism, limited government conservative ideology was in the germinal stages.

The key to success for opponents of S.1 was their insistence on having the entire bill returned to subcommittee to be rewritten from scratch, instead of dropping their objections after S.1 proponents made some compromises. This required perseverance, for some of the compromises were tempting, and most politicians, suckled on the necessity of compromise, had to fight their instincts.

Pressure

The ACLU and other opponents kept up the pressure on the Kennedys, Harts, and Abourezks who were carrying the anti-S.1 ball in the Senate. Without this pressure a compromise would probably have been worked out.

The importance of stopping S.1 in its present form can be summarized briefly.

Traditional American Constitutional theory holds that government, while necessary, is dangerous, and must be strictly limited and held in check by a Constitution. The philosophy behind S.1 is about the opposite.

A reading of S.1 with a philosophical eye leads to the conclusion that government is a constructive and benevolent force, and that government should have the authority and power needed to do what the agents of the government think best for the people. We need not concern ourselves too much about ambiguities in the law which could lead to abuses of power, because most government agents are sincere people who want what's best for the country and have the wisdom and training to do what's best.

Publicized Horrors

There have been a number of well-publicized "horrors" in S.1, but the entire bill is permeated with the above philosophy, in addition to being sloppily drafted. A few compromises, or even a lot of compromises could not have turned it into a bill which anybody with much concern for individual liberty could have supported in good conscience.

Now that S.1 is effectively dead for this session, libertarians have an opportunity for some creative legislative work. Codification is not going to be a dead issue. It will be tried again next year. Since the effort will be started almost from scratch, however, we have an opportunity to make proposals at an early stage of the drafting process.

There are dozens of parts of the federal criminal code which should simply be repealed. We should find them and make proposals for their repeal. We should look at the present code (and the work done so far makes this easier) and develop libertarian alternatives. There just might be a chance of having some of them incorporated in next year's version of recodification.

Regulatory Reform Becoming Chic

Now that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) has introduced a bill to reform the Civil Aeronautics Board's (CAB) regulation of the airline industry, "regulatory reform," or "deregulation" has taken its place among the chic cliches which we can expect to hear from candidates and politicians in the next few years. Within a few months, it might even be right up there with "tax reform," and "open government" as things which everybody is for but does very little about.

The kind of "deregulation" which Sen. Kennedy has proposed is really more like "reregulation." In effect, it selects a few of the more prominent abuses of the CAB and seeks to correct them, thus maintaining the power and "legitimacy" of the regulatory process. Thus Kennedy's bill, a bit more far-reaching than last year's Ford Administration bill, would let airlines lower fares gradually over four years, allow airlines to begin and to cut off service on routes with a little less red tape, and put airlines under slightly less government control than is the case at present.

This kind of reform is extremely dangerous. It reaffirms the existence of the regulatory agencies, at a time when a hardhitting campaign just might lead to the abolition of a few agencies. The critiques of regulatory agencies begun by libertarians in the 1960s are having their effect. Very few people deny that regulation leads to a cartel-like situation in which firms in the business under question are protected from competition and market forces.

Both the Ford Administration and liberal Democrats, aware of the weakness of the regulatory system, are trying to "make the system work" by eliminating the most obvious abuses. Libertarians should keep pounding home the message that the regulatory system itself is a bad system, that the most effective consumer-oriented discipline for business firms is the discipline

of the market.

If you're interested in making this message heard you might write to Sen. Kennedy (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) or to Sen. Howard Cannon (D-Nev.), Chairman of the Senate Commerce Aviation Subcommittee, which is now considering proposals to reform Federal regulation of the airline industry.

Social Security Beginning to Crumble?

The news that New York City is preparing to pull out of the Federal Social Security system has hit Washington like a shock wave. It is not an isolated incident. Several cities in California and Alaska had previously announced their intention to opt out of Social Security. Closer to home, the Washington area Metro Council of Governments has announced its intention to dump Social Security.

The reasons are simple. Most of these government jurisdictions have found that for less money they can purchase better retirement and pension plans for their workers in the private market. These less expensive, more comprehensive private pension plans are better than Social Security or even Social Security supplemented by private plans. Even those with 36 or 38 quarters in Social Security, within spitting distance of the 40 quarters required to retire at age 62, were convinced they'd get a better deal with a private plan.

In passing, it's interesting to observe the cunning of the Federal bureaucracy. The government has sought continual expansion of Social Security in the private sector, aiming for universal "protection." Yet Federal government employees have never been required to join Social Security, and state and local governments are permitted to opt out of the system after giving two-years notice.

Taking Care

The government takes care of its own
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Campus Organizing

Ballot Drives Need Students

Tom Palmer

Young Libertarian Alliance chapters have been sprouting up around the country like mushrooms, with one hundred already in operation. The goal set by the national office is between two and three hundred chapters setting up literature tables during the first two weeks of the fall semester.

Any and all LP student members who wish to become active on their campuses should immediately make contact with the national office of the YLA. A campus-organizing package will be rushed to you. Many YLA chapters have been instrumental in helping state parties' ballot drives; in many instances they have been garnering more signatures on campus than LP organizers have been getting elsewhere. The major goal of YLA chapters and all LP student members during the next few months should be to get state LPs on the ballot.

There is no better time than now to become active in your ballot drive and thus ensure that the libertarian alternative is presented to the public.

Any student who can take a week, a month, or several months off should write the national YLA office and his or her own state party to inquire about the possibility of working full-time on the ballot drives. Inquiries should be made as soon as possible so that crews can be set up to travel to those states where help is needed. It is preferable that interested students have some experience in petitioning, though this is by no means required. Traveling costs will be provided for, as well as lodging and basic expenses. This is a great chance to benefit the libertarian movement and the cause of liberty (as well as have a good time). Please inquire today.

The tactic of employing mobile groups of student activists was used effectively by the McGovern campaign in 1972. Working in the 1976 LP campaign, such groups will travel from state to state and from city to city within states. It is hoped that such student teams will be able to gather the signatures necessary to provide a margin of safety — thus ensuring LP ballot status.

After ballot status is gained in most states, student activists should then "rev up" for heavy campaigning in the first weeks of the autumn semester. Literature tables, speaking engagements, rallies, leafletting, and other such projects will bring

the message of individual liberty to thousands of students — and move many of them to active participation in the Libertarian Party.

If the libertarian movement is to grow in the manner envisioned by libertarians who are serious about our goal of total liberty, we must become active in the drive for LP ballot status. (Even your hard-working YLA national chairman will be traveling to other states for the last two weeks of April to work on ballot status.)

The next step is heavy involvement on campus in the first few weeks of the fall semester. The Young Libertarian Alliance Campus Organizing Manual (which expands on methods proven effective by campus libertarian clubs) is still available to all interested parties — just write today, and one will be sent immediately.

An ad for the YLA has been run successfully in 100 campus newspapers and will appear in forthcoming issues of Reason and Libertarian Review. Those on campuses who respond will form a major part of the MacBride/Bergland campaign during the summer and fall.

All campus libertarians and chapters should regularly report to the national office on their projects and programs. A student libertarian newsletter will be published soon which will keep chapters and members informed of YLA events and activities. It will be sent to all student members.



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LP Position Paper

Pot, Helmets And You

David Nolan

No sensible person wants to live in a society where he or she is not protected against violent and aggressive acts by others. There may be reasonable differences of opinion as to how the protection should be provided, but very few people will quarrel with the idea that there must be some effective form of prohibition against such acts as murder, rape, robbery, and similar overt assaults on persons and their property.

Likewise, almost everyone will agree that we also need some form of protection against those who would do us harm through the subtler instrument of fraud. For the swindler who takes your money and gives you nothing in return and the merchant who sells you shoddy goods by misrepresentation have robbed you just as surely as the stickup artist who uses a gun.

The Libertarian View

Libertarians strongly support prohibitions against the use of force and fraud, as these two activities are the two basic means by which human rights are violated. Indeed, we maintain that these are the only means by which anyone can violate another person's rights. If someone does not initiate force against you, and does not try to defraud you, he cannot violate your rights.

Libertarians further maintain that the only legitimate function of government—if we are to have government at all—is to protect individual rights; i.e., to protect people from the use of force and fraud by others. It is not a proper function of government, we believe, to assist some people at the expense of others, or to prevent individuals from harming themselves.

Increasingly, however, we find our governments at all levels enacting laws whose avowed purpose is to protect people not from predatory acts by others, but from

their own alleged incompetence and poor judgment. With every passing year our rulers become more paternalistic—telling us that, like little children, we must be prevented from doing something else that might be bad for us.

Helmet Laws

An especially gross example of this kind of thinking at work is the requirement—imposed by all but a handful of states—that motorcyclists wear crash helmets.

Now it may well be true that crash helmets contribute to the safety and well-being of motorcycle riders. Then again, the exact opposite may be the case; there is considerable evidence that wearing a helmet reduces a cyclist's peripheral vision and thereby significantly increases the likelihood that an accident will occur.

But that is not the crucial point. Whether or not they prevent motorcyclists from injuring themselves, helmet laws are an arbitrary and dictatorial infringement of each individual's right to make his or her own choices and take his or her own risks, so long as he or she does not violate the rights of others by force or fraud.

Danger To Others?

In all the debate over helmet laws, nobody has ever claimed that motorcyclists should be forced to wear helmets because lack of a helmet poses a threat to anyone else.

The debate has been purely and simply over whether or not an individual has the right to risk his or her own life and well-being. And so far, the advocates of self-determination in this area have been losing.

Of course, helmet laws for motorcyclists are not the only examples of Big Momma "self-protection" legislation.

Wherever You Turn

Automobiles are required to be equipped

with safety belts . . . and there is increasing talk that drivers be compelled by law to fasten them.

Regulations have been proposed limiting the potency of the vitamins you may buy.

Cigarettes must already carry a "health hazard" warning, and they may no longer be advertised on television; talk of banning their sale completely is being heard.

Laetrile, claimed by some to be a possible cancer cure or retardant, cannot be purchased in the United States, thanks to the Food and Drug Administration.

Psychedelics

Marijuana and other "pleasure" drugs are outlawed completely under Federal statutes, and banned by virtually every state as well.

Now, in each of these cases, it is quite possible that the laws in question do in fact protect people from their own folly.

Seat belts may well save lives, and overdoses of some vitamins are undoubtedly harmful. Cigarettes may cause cancer, while Laetrile may not cure it.

It is not unlikely that excessive use of marijuana does fog the brain and cause other harm, as its detractors claim. And so on and so forth, for each and every "self-protection" law on the books.

Crucial Point

But once again, this is not the crucial point. The key point is that if you accept the Libertarian premise that your life is your own, and not the State's, the government has no business telling you what you can and cannot do, except for prohibiting you from using force and fraud against others.

It is one thing to say "You cannot do X, because by doing X, you will harm someone else." It is something else entirely, however, to say "You cannot do X because by so doing you might harm yourself."

And it is the difference between these two ideas which sets the Libertarian Party part from all other political parties in the United States.

The Libertarian Party alone stands uncompromisingly for the idea of self sovereignty; all other parties are dedicated, in some degree, to the idea that the individual is a ward of the State.

The Central Issue

For the issue raised by "self-protection" laws goes far deeper than the specific debates over helmet laws and vitamin potencies. It is the central issue of our time: the question of who owns your life.

One one side are those who say, at least partially, that "society" or "the government" has the responsibility to "take care" of "its" citizens (as opposed to simply protecting them from aggression).

These are the people who maintain that the government has the right and duty to feed people, clothe them, provide them with housing, education, medical care, employment, and so forth.

And if one accepts this premise, then one must also accept the things which go with it—the taxation and regulation and "self-protection" laws which are required to maintain a nation of sheep. After all, Big Momma is going to take care of your every need, it is not unreasonable to have laws that prohibit you from hurting yourself.

If, on the other hand, you reject the Big Momma concept of government—if you want to be free to make your own decisions and take your own risks and accept the consequences—then you belong on the other side, with the Libertarian Party, and we welcome your support.

The choice is yours. But remember—there is no middle ground. Either your life is your own, or it is the State's. So choose well.

What's Happening In Washington

(Continued from page 3)

employees pretty well. The fact that Social Security "protection" is not required for government workers gives you some idea of just how highly the bureaucrats themselves value Social Security as a retirement plan.

Why does Social Security fail? A recent article on the editorial page of the Washington Post by Jodie T. Allen of Mathematica Policy Research, explained to Washingtonians who haven't figured it out that Social Security is not a retirement system at all but a scheme for redistributing income. The article included the following statement:

"The most logical way to reform Social Security is simply to remove the redistributive elements entirely, thus permitting more competitive returns to the average wage earner with the same or even a lower tax burden . . . With a contribution-based system such as this, one would not care if government workers chose to participate or not." The article did not go on to say that a true contribution-based system could allow anybody to opt out, but it's a little bit of progress here in Babylon-on-the Potomac.

Noted In Passing

Last January, the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced its fifth National Wildlife Recreational Survey to determine how many people participate in outdoor activities related to wildlife, such as through hunting, fishing, target shooting, or photography. Another wonderful use of your tax money for a special interest group.

From a letter written by a small contractor for the OSHA Board of En-

to his Congressman: "Would you see if you could get us the same treatment as a common criminal? Thank you."

Regulations implementing the Federal Fair Credit Billing Practices Act and the Federal Equal Opportunity Credit Act become effective on various dates over the next two years. The result? Is anybody really surprised that small business across the country are terminating all retail consumer credit accounts?

Said a building supply company: "It is very discouraging to us that the federal government is making it increasingly difficult to provide retail consumer credit services to our customers and friends."

The Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service has put out a four-page release entitled "Feathers and Federal Law." It explains the federal laws which make it illegal for anyone to kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, trade, ship, import, or export any migratory bird, including feathers, parts, nests, or eggs, of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act unless he gets a permit first. Some feathers are available to Indians for religious and cultural purposes, but they cannot be sold. The penalties? A \$2,000 fine and a year in jail.

HEW has awarded a \$7560 contract for a six-week project involving "the preparation of a technical paper entitled "Administrative and Legislative Uses of the Term 'Poverty.'"

The House Agriculture Committee last fall held a series of hearings "to discuss redefinition of the term 'farm.'"

The House on April 6 demonstrated what it thinks is really important by including a measure to ban staged dog fights in a bill to prohibit interstate trading of animals.

The Agriculture Department will be enforcing this law. The House measure did say that chickens could be shipped into states that have not outlawed cockfighting.

A Few Cheerful Notes

The House Judiciary Committee recently approved a "sunshine" bill to require federal regulatory agencies to hold their business meetings in public. About 50 government agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, Federal Power Commission, Federal Reserve System, Securities and Exchange Commission, Civil Aeronautics Board, and the Federal Election Commission, are covered by the bill.

The House defeated an attempt by friends of Arthur Burns to delete the Federal Reserve System from the agencies covered. Burns claimed that open meetings could "wreck havoc" with sensitive financial matters affecting the economy. Burns should know something about wreaking havoc on the economy.

Bad News: The House passed a bill providing for a midterm census. Marketing experts around the country will be pleased to know that the taxpayers will be paying for market research for them every five years instead of every ten years.

Good News: The House passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio) stipulating that there would be no criminal punishment for refusing to answer the accompanying questionnaire on the grounds that it invades somebody's privacy.

Estate Tax Reform

The House Ways and Means Committee held hearings during March on proposals to reform the Federal Estate and Gift Tax laws. There has been a great deal of public

ity about family farmers and small family businesses having to sell the farm or business when the father dies just to pay the taxes. In addition, the present laws discriminate against women by making the man the legal sole owner of any family farm or business, and the provisions for exemptions haven't been changed since 1942.

At present you don't have to pay Estate Taxes if your Estate is under \$60,000. That figure was set in 1942, and simple adjustment for inflation would require that it be set at \$210,000. The Ford Administration has suggested raising it to \$150,000, and there are numerous proposals extant to raise the figure to anywhere from \$120,000 to \$300,000.

As Director of Libertarian Advocate, I testified during these hearings in favor of abolishing the Estate and Gift Taxes altogether. The farm wives who appeared on the same panel told me privately that they really agreed with my position but didn't dare say it. The biggest surprise, however, was when Acting Chairman Omar Burleson (D-Tex.) told me that my testimony had intrigued him and he'd be inclined to support it. He qualified the statement by saying that he felt it was unrealistic to ask for it, but I was surprised that he even expressed support.

It is likely that Ways and Means will report out some liberalization of Estate Tax Laws this year, and that it will be passed by the House and Senate within a few months.

(Alan Bock, for several years a Congressional staffer, is Director of Libertarian Advocate, a new lobbying organization formed to present libertarian viewpoints and proposals in legislatures and other key forums.)

State Parties Spread The Word

ALABAMA

State Chairperson Harvey Crumhorn has received good cooperation from Alabama's secretary of state during the ALP's ballot drive. The state requirement is 5000 verified signatures. So far about 4500 signatures have been approved, and county probate judges are being asked to re-check those signatures which have been questioned. Regardless of the outcome, says Crumhorn, the Libertarian Party has more than tripled in size in Alabama as a result of the petition drive. The ALP also received its first serious media coverage during the drive.

ALASKA

In March, LP Vice Presidential candidate David Bergland spent four days in the state. His visit generated three hours of radio and television interviews and several newspaper articles. Bergland spoke to the state LP convention and also to a public meeting in Anchorage.

The ALP held an anti-tax demonstration on Apr. 15. Doug Cracraft has been elected the new state Chairperson, replacing Maxine Kelly. Other officers are Ed Barker, Vice-Chairperson, and Rita Russel, Secretary-Treasurer. The new address for the ALP is Box 2458, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

The party expects to submit the necessary signatures for ballot status to the secretary of state in early May. Roger MacBride will visit the state for several days of campaigning in July.

ARIZONA

The recent visit of Roger MacBride had a very positive impact on Arizona LP. A decision has been made to attempt to gain ballot status, and a statewide organization headed by Emil Franz is coordinating the effort. Franz, a former chairman of the California Young Republicans, officially left the GOP to work for the MacBride Committee. He has recruited several able staffers to work on the petition drive and to run the campaign.

Co-chairperson of the Committee is H. Michael Ross of Phoenix. Other officers are John T. Hamilton, III, Finance Chairman; Carol Wilson, General Counsel; Aretha Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator; Dora Ross, Treasurer; Helen Stevens, Maricopa County Chairperson; and Mike Emerling, Pima County Chairperson. Stevens and Hamilton are former Republican activists and Ross is a former McGovern organizer.

Two of the leading political commentators in the state wrote very favorable articles about MacBride. Bernie Wynn of the Phoenix **Republic** accurately described the LP platform and commented that it appealed to both liberals and conservatives. Writing in the Tucson **Daily Citizen**, Asa Bushnell called MacBride "a triple-threat to pull voters from right, left, and center." Anyone interested in assisting the state-level MacBride for President Committee should write Emil Franz, Box 2128, Tucson, AZ 85702.

The ALP is scheduled to have its annual convention in May, according to state Chairman Lawrence Jerome. State Senator Steve Davis, a self-described libertarian, has quit the Republican Party. He is being urged to join the LP.

ARKANSAS

The April issue of **38,219** contains lively commentary by Franklin Sanders and a discussion of the Tennessee LP convention, which several ALP members attended. Sanders has asked all libertarians in the state who are interested in running for office to write him at P.O. Box 7474, Little Rock, AR 72207.

CALIFORNIA

The good news reported on page one is that — at long last — the Libertarian Party of California may be able to get its candidates on the ballot. The new 99,000 signature requirement is by no means easy, but state Chairperson Ray Cunningham reports

that enthusiasm throughout the state is extremely high and that he expects success in the petition drive.

Lynn Kinsky, LP candidate for John Tunney's U.S. Senate seat, received excellent media coverage of her official campaign kickoff. Kinsky sees taxation as the best issue to emphasize during the campaign, and she has promised a hard-hitting drive to bring the libertarian message to the citizens of California. Contributions should be sent to Kinsky for Senate, P.O. Box 6274, Santa Barbara, CA 93111.

A recent 20-page edition of the excellent LPC newsletter **Caliber** contained news from most of the 20 regions into which the LPC is divided. Many of these regions have

ters is published in Orange County (P.O. Box 2347, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, 744-962-4676). The April issue contains articles on malpractice litigation, the IRS, and Social Security taxes. The newly elected Orange County Chairperson (replacing LP Vice Presidential candidate Dave Bergland) is Bernie Perra.

The **San Francisco Libertarian**, a new publication of the SFLP (450 Liberty Street, No. 4, San Francisco, CA 94114), is edited by Eric Garris. A recent issue describes the various projects of Bay Area libertarians, including coalitions with the Network Against Psychiatric Assault (NAPA) and a group opposed to S. 1. LPC Vice Chairperson and author of **The IRS Conspiracy**, Hank Hohenstein, spoke to the Bay Area Libertarian Supper Club in March.

In June, 12 million Californians will receive an opposition argument to the \$600 million Veterans Bond Act proposal in their voter registration packets. The argument was written by LPC activists Bill Westmiller and Charles Barr and National Execom member Ed Clark. YLA coordinator Judy Gans now has organizations on 22 campuses in the state.

COLORADO

Dave Bergland's recent visit to Colorado generated considerable publicity and helped recruit petition-gatherers on campuses for the ballot drive. (**LP NEWS** incorrectly reported in the last issue that the CLP was close to obtaining the necessary signatures. Actually, it is 20 percent of the way there, and petitioners are definitely needed. Call Dave Nolan at 303/755-6100.)

The CLP sponsored a tax-day protest at which each presidential candidate (other than MacBride) was represented by a live turkey bearing the candidate's name. Four Denver television stations covered the event.

CONNECTICUT

Petition-drive coordinators in Connecticut are Jim Rosinus and Rich Loomis. Loomis' father, Bob, is state Chairperson and recently testified at a state Capitol hearing against a possible state income tax. Bob Stone was elected to fill a vacancy on the State Central Committee. Roger MacBride will be campaigning in the state May 5-6 and is scheduled to take time out to record some radio spots at the studio of LP activist Pitt Kinsolving. For information on MacBride's trip write to the LPC at Box 252, East Granby, CT 06026.

DELAWARE

Technically, the LPD has achieved ballot status. As currently required, state Chair-

person Bill Morris filed with the secretary of state the names of the LPD's four statewide candidates along with MacBride and Bergland. The LP candidates are Steve Toy for U.S. Senate, John D. Rogers for House of Representatives, R. Lawrence Levy for Governor, and Joseph Taylor for Lt. Governor. However, the state legislature is likely to pass a law requiring 2600 signatures rather than just the four candidates. If the new law is passed, the LPD may have to obtain the necessary signatures, although its legal counsel is still looking into the matter.

Betty Strami is organizing a Young Libertarian Alliance chapter on the University of Delaware campus. The April issue of **Freedom's Voice** contains an article on busing by Steve Toy. Roger MacBride will campaign in the state on May 13. Write to the LPD, P.O. Box 9014, Wilmington, DE 19802.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairperson Linda Webb sponsored a highly successful cocktail reception for Roger MacBride on Apr. 13. Over 100 Washingtonians turned out to meet the LP standard bearer, including columnist Nicholas von Hoffman. The event was covered by a reporter from the **New York Times**. While in the nation's capitol, MacBride spoke to Lee Edwards' conservative lunch group and to the International School of Law. The latter event was organized by LPDC activist Harte Stafford. Gene Halloway, who is in charge of the ballot drive in D.C., is already lining up petitioners for the big push this summer.

The DCLP also provides most of the volunteer support at national headquarters, including "regulars" Mike Fieschko, Gretchen Johnsen, and Skip Miller. Tom Palmer and National Chairman Ed Crane have spoken to over 1000 high school students from around the country as part of the national "Close Up" program in Washington, D.C.

FLORIDA

Charlie Pickett, Vice Chairperson for the LP of Alachua County, announced his candidacy for the Gainesville City Commission on Mar. 30. He received heavy media coverage that included radio, television, and local newspapers. His campaign will emphasize the incumbents' poor record on civil liberties and will stress the need for turning over such city services as garbage collecting and transportation to private enterprise. Contributions should be sent to Box 12427 University Station, Gainesville,

(Please turn to page 6)



COLORADO TAX PROTEST—Accompanying these fowl gobblers during a recent appearance in Denver was a banner reading: "These Turkeys Want To Raise Your Taxes."

MacBride Committees Get Formed . . .

(Continued from page 5)

FL 32604.

The LPF state convention was scheduled to be held Apr. 23-25 with LP Vice Presidential candidate Dave Bergland as the featured speaker. Zack Richardson continues to work full time on organizing the difficult LPF ballot drive.

GEORGIA

The 1976 Southern Libertarian Conference will be held June 5-6 in Atlanta. Jim Clarkson, newly appointed Chairperson of the Georgia MFPC, is organizing the event. All Southern libertarians and friends are invited to attend the conference, which will feature well-known libertarian speakers, a foreign policy seminar, workshops, and a libertarian film festival. Write Jim Clarkson, 322 East 11th St., Rome, GA 30161.

HAWAII

Al Pennington is the new state Chairperson, replacing Mike Anzis who has left the Islands. Pennington, a commercial pilot, reports that the ballot drive should meet its 4500 signature goal at least two weeks prior to the May 5 deadline. The new Executive Committee consists of Pennington, Mike Rossell, Bruce Anderson (Petition Drive Coordinator), and former state Chairperson Jerry Dickson. Rossell is planning media events for Roger MacBride's campaign trip in mid-July. For information on the LPH write to P.O. Box 4541, Honolulu, HI 96813.

IDAHO

The ballot drive in this state appears well under control. State Chairperson D. Allen Dalton has until May 31 to get 1500 signatures. The LPI staged a tax protest at the Boise post office on Apr. 15. The Party received publicity for its endorsement of a bill in the state legislature that would guarantee parental control over children's education. The bill was co-sponsored by libertarian Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter.

ILLINOIS

The LPI petition drive is off and running. State Chairperson Rich Suter estimates that over 5000 signatures have already been collected. The goal is 100,000 to ensure that 25,000 verified signatures are obtained. The LPI is rapidly gaining on New York's FLP as the second largest state party in the nation. It has adopted a decentralized organizational structure and now has 14 local clubs holding regular meetings.

The LPI newsletter, *The Illinois Libertarian*, is now published by Milton Mueller and edited by Kenneth Jameson. They replace Robert Osterland, who has done an excellent job publishing the newsletter.

The LPI sponsored a very successful seminar on tax resistance which featured Rene Baxter from Arizona, John J. Matonis from Washington, D.C., Paul Stont from DuPage County, and LP Vice Presidential nominee David P. Bergland. Over 150 people (many from outside Illinois) attended the seminar. Significant sums of money were raised to assist the ballot drive.

In other happenings around the state, Anne McCracken delivered an editorial reply on WBBM (CBS) radio in which she trenchantly argued against rent control. LPI activists Will and Marybeth Kinney held the first organizational meeting for the Northwest Chicago club (312/774-4105). Don Parrish reports that the DuPage club kicked off the ballot drive by collecting 250 signatures in one day (312/852-2844). William Parker is organizing the Kane County club (312/584-3272), and LPI Vice Chairperson Jeff Smith is coordinating things in South Chicago (312/643-4225).

INDIANA

Roger MacBride termed his recent visit to the state as "one of the very best tours of the campaign." Now the LPI is concentrating on its ballot drive which requires about 16,000 gross signatures by September.

State Chairperson Paul Hyatt said several hundred pieces of LP literature were distributed at a tax protest in front of the Federal Building in Indianapolis. Well-known free market economist Benjamin Rogge of Wabash College has been helpful to the LPI in coordinating the MacBride tour and with organizing on his campus.

IOWA

Ballot drive coordinator Gary Roewe hopes to have several thousand signatures in hand by June. (Only 1000 valid signatures are needed, and the deadline is in late August.) The LPI has an excellent new newsletter, *Prairie Fire*, which is available from state headquarters at 8407 Horton, Des Moines, IA 50322. Roewe, Ben Olson, John Ball, Charles Hartman, and State Chairperson Bill Bockoven have been busy spreading libertarianism throughout the state at numerous college and civic speaking engagements.

KANSAS

Those interested in assisting state Chairperson Jim Ward with his attempt to place the MacBride/Bergland ticket on the ballot should write to him at Route 1, Garnett, KS 66032.

KENTUCKY

The dynamic duo of libertarian politics in Kentucky, Bobbi and Marty Jahn, have succeeded in making their state the second to have official LP ballot status. The Jahns coordinated a late March tour for Roger MacBride that generated excellent local news coverage. MacBride visited Louisville and Bowling Green while in the state.

LOUISIANA

The LPL has already collected over the 1000 signature total needed for ballot status and expects to file the signatures on May 1. State Chairperson Jerry Millett is also in charge of the MFPC in Louisiana. For information on campaign activities write to Millett at 112 Hampton Rd., Lafayette, LA 70501. In Baton Rouge write to P.O. Box 18966, L.S.U. Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

MAINE

Susan Roberts, state Chairperson, held an organizational meeting in late March in Saco. While Maine is one of the few states in which the MacBride/Bergland ticket will not be on the ballot, Roberts reports that the 15 people in attendance were enthusiastic about the prospects for libertarianism in the state. Regular meetings are now scheduled. For information write to Roberts at Lewis Lane, Saco, ME 04072.

MARYLAND

Those interested in working on LP projects should write or call James R. Spriggs at 9903 Thornwood Rd., Kensington, MD 20795, (301) 946-3527.

MASSACHUSETTS

One of the most ambitious petition drives in the country is now underway in Massachusetts. Although the LPM is among the most active and largest of the state LPs, it faces the inevitable task of collecting 60,000 signatures in a little over two months. An Apr. 13 Thomas Jefferson birthday party and social gathering kicked off the petition drive. The drive will also place F. Lee Nason's name on the ballot as a U.S. Senatorial candidate, if successful.

The LPM has begun affiliating local chapters, the first two of which are Suffolk-Norfolk and Middlesex-Essex. The State Committee has named Sharona Nelson the MLP Finance Director. A State Committee meeting was scheduled for Apr. 26 at Lee Nason's home.

A tax protest was held on Apr. 10 on the Boston Common. It was coordinated by Mike Shanley and Carol Steinberger and featured Lee Nason burning a 1040 form. As is appropriate for Boston and tax protests, tea was served. Lee Nason also spoke

against proposed gun control legislation before the Public Safety Committee of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She received a rousing round of applause from the several hundred gun-owners present. It was a great way to begin her campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Roger MacBride and Harvard philosopher Bob Nozick will be the featured speakers at "Mass Con '76," the annual state convention of the LPM. The event will take place on Saturday, May 8 at the Lenox Hotel in downtown Boston. In addition to the speeches and regular party business such as the platform debate, the convention will feature the showing of two libertarian movies, *The Incredible Bread Machine* and *We Won't Get Fooled Again*.

For information on the convention call Don Hunt at 864-6497. The LPM mailing address is P.O. Box 2610, Boston, MA 02208.

MICHIGAN

All efforts of the state LP are centered on the ballot drive. At press time approximately 15,000 signatures had been collected with two weeks to go. The requirement of 17,000 valid signatures means that a total of 27,000 must be collected in order to qualify for an August "primary" in which all new and minor parties will compete to get on the November ballot. The latter requirement was passed recently by the Michigan legislature, partly in response to the LP ballot drive which, if successful, would have required the state to switch from voting machines to paper ballots.

State Chairperson Jim Hudler and national Secretary Greg Clark (of Rochester, Michigan) both feel confident that the required signatures will be obtained and that the LPM will survive the primary. Clark and several other members of the state party have taken vacation time in order to work on the petition drive.

A recent article in the Jackson *Citizen Patriot* featured interviews with Hudler, Dave Wulkan (6th District LP Chairperson), and Veronica Desnoyer (former state secretary). LPM headquarters are located at 818 South Forest Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

MINNESOTA

The LPM held a general membership meeting in late March followed by a tax protest on Apr. 10 at the Federal Building in Minneapolis. A rally was also scheduled for the evening of Apr. 15 at the post office where thousands of pieces of literature were to be distributed to last-minute taxpayers.

LPM Chairperson Robin Miller reports that the general membership meeting passed resolutions opposing state funding for the arts and the use of tax money by the local transit authority to compete with private transit systems. A state convention is scheduled for May 22-23 at the Holiday Inn in St. Paul. Plans for the July 6-Sept. 14 petition drive will be completed at the convention. For information, write LPM, P.O. Box 774, Minneapolis, MN. 55440.

MISSISSIPPI

State Chairperson Charles Clark hopes to be able to affiliate the Mississippi LP with the National organization in the near future. Membership in the Party more than doubled as a result of Roger MacBride's successful two-day campaign swing through the state in early April. Clark organized numerous media events and speeches for MacBride in Hattiesburg, Greenville, and Jackson. A YLA chapter is being organized on the University of Southern Mississippi campus. Write the LPM at P.O. Box 143, Perkinston, MS 39573.

MISSOURI

The newest state party to affiliate with the National LP is Missouri. At an organizing convention in March featuring Oklahoma state Chairperson Porter Davis, the affiliation petition was signed and officers

were elected. Keith Coolidge is the new state Chairperson, and he may be telephoned at (314) 442-8322. Other officers are Pamela Elliot, Vice Chairperson; Sue Wittmeyer, Secretary; and David Bollom, Treasurer. The Party must collect 18,000 valid signatures by July 31 which is an unusually difficult assignment. Coolidge reports, however, that there are tentative plans to go ahead with the drive. If you want to assist, write to the LPM at 1515 Bouchelle, Columbia, MO 65201.

MONTANA

The second state convention will be held at Montana State University on Saturday, Apr. 24. Featured speakers are Bill Susel, National Excom member and former campaign manager for 1972 LP presidential candidate John Hospers, and state Representative Bill Asher, an outspoken opponent of gun control legislation. Don Doig will host a banquet following the meeting. The Montana LP has terminated its longshot attempt to get the Party on the ballot and is now concentrating on a petition drive that will place the MacBride/Bergland ticket on the ballot as independents. State Chairperson Mona Brown has been responsible for organizing an active group in Montana which, prior to this year, had little or no organization. Write to 609 S. 9th, Bozeman, MT 59705.

NEBRASKA

The newly regrouped LPN sponsored a highly successful dinner in honor of Dr. R.S. Jaggard, libertarian activist in medical politics. Jaggard spoke to a group of libertarians and doctors on "Practicing Free Enterprise Medicine in a Welfare State." The meeting resulted in television coverage and a major article in the Omaha *Sun*. A state convention is planned for June 26-27. Weekly meetings are held on Sunday afternoons at Burton Jay's home, 1612 North 107th Avenue, Omaha. The LP headquarters is P.O. Box 34023, Omaha, NE 68134.

NEVADA

The tough Nevada petition drive is making good progress according to Rick White. About 3000 signatures have been gathered which is consistent with reaching a gross figure of 16,000 by July 9. Florence Fields, a Las Vegas realtor, has been named state Secretary of the LPN.

Indefatigable state Chairperson Jim Burns has given Big Brother another headache. This time Burns won a Municipal Court ruling in a case the city took him to court for refusing to pay \$25 "fee" (read: tax) to put up a campaign poster on private property. The city will appeal the ruling. Said dejected Chief Deputy City Attorney John Graves, "We can't afford to lose that ordinance." Responded Burns, incredulously, "It would cost the city more to fight the case than the sign tax will raise in the next ten years." State headquarters is at 234 West St. Louis, No. 4, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. The LPN telephone number is (702) 385-7895.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

On Apr. 21 and 22, Roger MacBride toured the state where he almost was on the ballot for the Democratic primary earlier this year. Arne Erickson coordinated the tour which included five radio talk shows, two television shows, and interviews with the two leading newspapers in the state. State Chairperson Barb Mosher says there should be no problem collecting the necessary 1000 signatures to place MacBride on the November ballot. Write to the LPH at 27 Shaw Street, No. 4, Lebanon, N.H. 03766.

NEW JERSEY

While many state LPs are out circulating petitions, the NJLP has already obtained ballot status for the MacBride/Bergland ticket and ten congressional candidates. Hardworking state Chairperson Bill Schetlick is coordinating Party activities out of the new NJLP headquarters office at 235-B (Please turn to page 7)

... Local Groups Protest Taxes

(Continued from page 6)

Main Street, Orange, NJ 07050, which can be telephoned at (201) 678-4988.

Calvin C. Beatty, Chairperson of the NJ Citizens for MacBride was one of the first to file a state committee with the Federal Election Commission. He reports that fund-raising is underway and a decentralized campaign organization being developed.

Former LP Assembly candidate Ken Kaplan is running an active campaign for Councilman from the North Ward in Orange. Kaplan is going door-to-door seeking votes and believes he has a good chance of winning. At a State Committee meeting in late March, Jack Moyers of Matawan was endorsed for Congress in the 4th District



—Photo by David Klein

CAMPAIGNERS FOR PRINCIPLE—LP presidential nominee Roger L. MacBride, sitting with Hal Cundari, LP nominee for U.S. Senator from New Jersey.

and Dr. Frank J. Primich of West New York was endorsed for the 9th District. County organizations in Monmouth and Ocean were approved at the meeting.

In Bergen County, the LP endorsed Charles Irwin, Henry Koch, and William Reynolds for the office of Freeholder. Essex County libertarians endorsed Betty Florentine, Kevin Lehman, and Richard Roth for Freeholder. The NJLP continues to receive excellent media coverage in the state.

NEW MEXICO

Roger MacBride had a highly successful tour of the state in early March. Longtime libertarian activist Maurice McDonald assisted state Chairperson Paul Henrickson with the campaign visit. Bill Lyne of Lamy, New Mexico, will be working on MacBride's campaign in the state. A May state convention is being planned by Henrickson.

NEW YORK

At the state convention Mar. 26-28, John Deane of Albany was elected new state Chairperson. Deane defeated national Execom member Leland Schubert and former state Chairperson Gary Greenberg for the post. This is the first time in FLP history that an upstate member has been elected Chairperson. Other officers are Ann Weill and Don Feder, Vice Chairpersons; Martin Nixon, Secretary; and Pete Wilson, Treasurer.

Marty Nixon also won the FLP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat held by conservative James Buckley. The *Wall Street Journal* mentioned Nixon's candidacy and his stand against taxation while reassuring readers that he wasn't that Nixon. Ralph

Raico delivered a very well-received keynote address at the convention, and Guy Riggs was the featured speaker at the banquet. National Chairman Ed Crane presented the FLP with a plaque in appreciation for the outstanding job the Party did on the 1975 national convention.

Tax protest demonstrations in Poughkeepsie (organized by Don Feder) received excellent local media attention. In Albany, Deane was pictured on the front page of the **Times-Union** dressed in Revolutionary garb.

Sanford Cohen, whose 1974 Congressional race was widely covered by the New York media, was in the news again recently. It seems the Mayor of Poughkeepsie

chance" to get the MacBride/Bergland ticket on the ballot. As recently as February, North Carolina had been written off as impossible for 1976. Andrews was at a meeting at High Point College at which conservative William Buckley was speaking. He received a promise from Buckley to have MacBride appear on his *Firing Line* TV show. The pragmatic Buckley criticized the LP for what he called its "failure to cope with reality." (Ed. note: Actually it's the LP's refusal to ignore reality and the political principles needed for a free society that gives headaches to conservatives.) Those desiring to assist with the ballot drive should telephone Andrews at (919) 697-5025.

NORTH DAKOTA

At press time, Natural Law was threatening to subvert our petition drive in North Dakota by flooding Minot. However, it is expected that state Chairperson David Saunders will have the necessary signatures by May 1. For information on the LPND, write to Saunders at 1000 20th Ave., NW, Minot, ND 58701.

OHIO

Congratulations to Bob Lehman, John Rako, Bill MacReynolds, Jim Higgins, Fran Smith, Karl Peterjohn, and the dozens of Ohio LPers who collected and submitted to the secretary of state 9341 signatures to place Roger MacBride and David Bergland on the November ballot. Since only 5000 valid signatures were required, the LPO is virtually assured of having its standard bearers on the ballot.

MacReynolds is head of the Ohio MFPC and has filed with the FEC. He says groups throughout the state plan door-to-door campaigning this spring in order to increase the level of awareness of the LP candidates in Ohio. Area chairpersons for the MFPC are Bob Lehman, Cleveland; John DeJager, Cincinnati; Jim Higgins, Columbus; and John Rako, Toledo. Karl Peterjohn is Vice Chairperson and Virginia MacReynolds is Treasurer. MacReynolds can be reached at (614) 451-0150.

OKLAHOMA

It appears that the Oklahoma LP's ambitious petition drive will fall short of the mark, meaning that a suit may be brought in court to obtain independent status on the ballot. John Vernon, Robert Murphy, and Porter Davis each appeared on radio talk shows in Oklahoma City in March. In addition, Davis spoke to the Downtown Kiwanis Club.

Libertarian Bonnie Philips was elected to the city council in Ponca City in a non-partisan election. She is the mother of LPO activist Dan Philips. The LPO has joined two coalitions recently. One is a group called Stop The Sales Tax which is opposing a one cent increase in the Oklahoma City sales tax which will be voted on May 6, and the other is an organization called FACT which is circulating a petition to legalize liquor sales by the drink. Every Tuesday night there is an informal LPO gathering at state headquarters, 2502 N. Military, Oklahoma City, OK 73106.

Oklahoman John Vernon, Chairperson of Libertarians for Gay Rights, is now publishing a newsletter for that organization.

OREGON

The OLP has a new state headquarters. The address is Oregon Libertarian Party, 106 W. First St., Albany, OR 97321. The office is available for volunteer workers seven days a week. Hardworking state Chairperson Richard Gray has called a State Committee meeting for late April to make the decision on whether the OLP will seek ballot status statewide this year. It faces a very difficult total of about 33,000 gross signatures for ballot status as independents and 53,000 for ballot status as a party. The decision may hinge on whether the state government will allow petition circulators to be paid.

1972 Vice Presidential candidate Tonie

Nathan is off and running again. Her committee has already collected one third of the needed signatures to place her name on the ballot as an independent candidate for Congress from Eugene. Those wishing to assist her campaign should send checks to Nathan Congressional Campaign Committee, P.O. Box 1235, Springfield, OR 97477.

PENNSYLVANIA

Good news: On Mar. 22, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision extending the filing dates for minor parties in the Commonwealth. Instead of a 22-day petition period, the LPP now has 196 days to file the 30,584 required signatures. Several mailings are being prepared to recruit petitioners and raise money for full-time help to ensure a successful petition drive. Pennsylvania is an important state for media coverage as well as having 27 votes in the Electoral College.

The state convention, "Libertas '76," will be held in the Pittsburgh area on May 8. Speakers will include Fran Youngstein and Ralph Raico. Seminars will be held on various aspects of petitioning, campaigning, and media relations. More information is available from Bertha Murphy, 1203 Greentree Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Frank Bubb, of Swarthmore, has been selected to head the Pennsylvania MFPC. Olga Chauncey of Warminster is developing a statewide mailing list of libertarian sympathizers for use in membership drives and campaign mailings. State Chairperson JoAnne Chernow spoke to a group of political science students at Shippensburg State College on Mar. 25, receiving favorable coverage in the local newspaper. Dr. Murray Rothbard appeared on the 50,000-watt radio show *The Money Talks* in Philadelphia in early April. State headquarters is 12G Lark Circle, York, PA 17404.

RHODE ISLAND

The LPRI, under the leadership of Tony Fioca, expects to affiliate with the national LP after its state convention Apr. 23 at the Holiday Inn in Providence. Highlight of that event will be a reception for Roger MacBride who will be in the state campaigning. His tour is being organized by Stew Engle and state YLA coordinator Todd Becker. A press conference, two radio shows, and a speech at Brown University are scheduled. Write the LPRI at P.O. Box 657, Bristol, RI 02809.

SOUTH CAROLINA

State Chairperson Charles T. Blackwell has announced his candidacy for the Fifth Congressional District seat held by Ken Holland. Blackwell has prepared a flyer that details the libertarian principles on which he is running. He has challenged Holland to publish his principles, claiming the voters won't know what to expect if Holland has no principles to guide his actions. Write to Blackwell at P.O. Box 732, York, SC 29745. The SCLP held a Spring Conference in early March which featured Regional Execom member Brian Donerly and Georgia LP activist Jim Clarkson. It was the largest libertarian gathering in South Carolina history.

There is a late-blooming effort to gain LP ballot status in South Carolina. Chairman of the Ballot Status Committee is L.V. Bruno. Bruno is coordinating the drive with the assistance of LP state Secretary Dargan Clarkson and attorney Robert B. Clarkson. The drive needs 10,000 signatures by Sept. 18.

SOUTH DAKOTA

National Execom member Dale Hemmings will attend an organizing meeting in late April in Vermillion. Temporary state Chairperson has been gradually building up a mailing list and hopes to have a national LP affiliation petition signed at the

(Please turn to page 8)

Local LPs Run Candidates

(Continued from page 7)

meeting. Independent ballot status for MacBride will require 5565 signatures by Aug. 30. For information on the LSDP, write to 111-67 Racine St., Rapid City, SD 57701.

TENNESSEE

Roger MacBride campaigned in Nashville and Memphis on March 25 and 26, and received excellent local media coverage. He appeared on the popular Teddy Bart TV talk show, several radio shows and spoke to the TLP state convention. At that convention, attorney Phil Carden was elected new state Chairperson. Tennessee has a very reasonable requirement for independent ballot status, and Carden is proceeding with plans to place the MacBride/Bergland ticket on the November ballot. Write to Carden at Box 60347, Nashville, TN 37206.

TEXAS

Mike Stevens, state Chairperson, is spending most of his time ensuring that the Texas LP complies with the complicated election laws in that state. Precinct and county-level meetings plus a state convention must be held in order to nominate MacBride and Bergland. The Party then has 60 days to collect about 25,000 signatures from individuals who did not vote in the primary election. Stevens says he is confident that the LP will qualify in Texas. In fact, in many areas of the state the LP is the sole opposition to the Democratic Party. Because of this, the media is paying particularly close attention to TLP news releases and events.

Probably the best organized YLA chapter in the nation is Mike Grossberg's at the University of Texas in Austin. With over 200 names of libertarians and/or sympathizers, the group has managed to distribute over 8000 pieces of LP literature in 1976. In addition there is a weekly YLA lecture series on campus. MacBride spoke to a group of over 150 at UT.

Terry Parker, LP Chairperson for Austin, continues to attract media attention with his activist approach to local issues. He recently helped form the Texas Tavern Association which hopes to end Alcoholic Beverage Commission harrassment by abolishing the ABC. For information on the Texas LP, write to 8511 D Beauregard, Dallas, TX 75225.

UTAH

The most professionally run campaign to date this year is that of U.S. Senatorial can-

candidates Steve Trotter. Campaign manager Marc Travis has a continuous stream of speeches, talk shows, and public appearances lined up for Trotter. A recent news release called for the sale of the U.S. Postal Service to private enterprise. Trotter said that if elected he would "get Big Government out of business, and Big Business out of government."

Discussing his campaign, Trotter said, "I'm extremely pleased with the manner in which the media in Utah is treating my candidacy. Almost from the beginning,



SOONER LIBERTARIANS—LP presidential nominee Roger L. MacBride poses with volunteers in front of the Oklahoma state LP headquarters. Left to right: Al Fiegel, Porter Davis, Roger

MacBride, daughter Abigail MacBride, John Aynesworth, Linda Rushing, John Rushing, Jim Rushing, John Vernon, Kim Philips.

they have considered me a serious challenger to Senator Moss." Contributions should be sent to the Trotter for Senator Committee, P.O. Box 9164, South Ogden, UT 84403.

In other activities the ULP, which was the first in the nation this year to gain state ballot status for the LP, has sent out news releases by state Chairperson George Chapman supporting a proposed legislative recall law and criticizing Governor Rampton for vetoing a reform that lessened the bite of inheritance taxes.

Congressional Districts and is in the process of having petitions printed. Jim Lawson is helping to place MacBride's name on the November ballot. If you would like to help the Virginia petition drive, write to Breeden at P.O. Box 664, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

WASHINGTON

LPWS Chairperson Richard Kenney spoke at the Apr. 13 meeting of Washington UAF on the topic "Taxation is

"theft." A recent issue of the state newsletter **Shockwave** contains an excellent article by Kenney discussing the merits of political action from a libertarian perspective. Write to the LPWS, P.O. Box 2096, Seattle, WA 98111.

WEST VIRGINIA

State Chairperson Dr. Harold E. Harvey (214 Professional Bldg., Beckley, WV 25801) has notified the LP NEWS that his daughter, Mary Corrine McMillion, may be the first LP candidate in the history of West Virginia. She is contemplating running for

Congress in the 4th district.

WISCONSIN

The state convention will be held Apr. 24-25 in Milwaukee. National Chairman Ed Crane is scheduled to be the featured speaker. The Milwaukee LP staged a tax protest on Apr. 15 at the main post office as late filers passed by. On Apr. 13 on channel 36, the MLP produced a television show entitled *Milwaukee Libertarian Party Presents News and Comment*. The new Chairperson of the Milwaukee group is Tom Hytry (2002 N. Cambridge, Milwaukee, WI 55202).

WLP activist Alyn W. Hess had a lengthy (and, of course, favorable) review of the MFPC's Gay Rights pamphlet printed in the influential **GPU News** in Milwaukee.

WYOMING

Excom member Bill Susel will visit the state in early May to help organize the LP and coordinate the ballot drive. Colorado LPers are expected to assist with this effort latter this summer.

CLARIFICATION

Karl Bray's article in the Jan.-Feb. issue was edited and rewritten by the editorial staff of the **LP NEWS**. Some of Bray's original material was cut out in the process. In these passages Bray indicated that tax refusal can be an appropriate tactic for those deeply concerned with the issue of taxes.

Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: first, a right to life; secondly, to liberty; thirdly to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can. Those are evident branches of, rather than deductions from, the duty of self-preservation, commonly called the first law of nature.

—Samuel Adams

Across The News Desk...

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The MacBride for President Committee has issued rankings of states in terms of per capita contributions to the presidential campaign. Contributions have been received from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

Here are the rankings for the top ten states:

1. ALASKA
2. COLORADO
3. CALIFORNIA
4. DIST. OF COLUMBIA
5. IDAHO
6. RHODE ISLAND
7. WISCONSIN
8. OKLAHOMA
9. WASHINGTON
10. NEVADA

The next five states in order are Arizona, New York, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Hawaii. Contributions should be sent to the MacBride for

President Committee, 1516 P Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. The unconstitutional Federal Election Commission insists that we inform you that a copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

ARRGGHHH!

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Ever since the national LP mailing list reached a size that required computerization, we've wished it hadn't. The LP computer is not-so-affectionately known as the CIA-360 because it is constantly trying to subvert our efforts.

This time, however, it outdid itself. Though we were assured it was coded to do otherwise, the computer insolently sent out letters to all of the LP's beloved Life and Life Sustaining members informing them that we could no longer afford to send them

LP Position Paper

Pernicious Partnership: State & Business

Walter Grinder

Libertarians favor the unhampered market system for two separate but related reasons. First, we are deeply suspicious of power. Historically, every time business and government have "worked together," the result has been the creation of a privileged class of specially-favored businessmen who are both protected from competition and spared the necessity of earning their profits by serving the consumer.

Second, Libertarians support a laissez-faire market system because it has proved far and away the best method of getting the most out of what we have; as economists would say, it is the most efficient way of allocating our scarce resources.

In other words, the more the government deviates from the free market—in the direction of mercantilism—the more it generates of injustice and poverty.

Energies Unleashed

The 19th century American economy, while not completely laissez-faire, often closely approximated an unhampered market system. The results were spectacular. Pent-up creative energies were unleashed and applied to solving the age-old problem of want. Secure in the knowledge that the fruits of their investments would be safe from governmental confiscation (either through taxation or through inflation), the people saved the invested. The new breed of businessman was willing to assume greater risks—on his own—on more long-range projects. Such men plowed back profits into new and expanded business firms. They found new uses for a rapidly developing technology.

These "enterprising Americans"—free farmers, hard-working laborers, and unfettered entrepreneurs—created a vast and

productive economy. Among the benefits that flowed to all segments of society was the continual rise in real wages, even though the population was multiplying enormously.

The system of laissez-faire capitalism was approximated, but, unfortunately, it was never fully realized. The ties between business and government had never been entirely severed. Near the turn of the 20th century, a new mercantilism began to emerge in full panoply.

Established Businesses

Competition was often anathema to the businessman who had made it to the top of his industry through years (or perhaps through his family's generations) of hard work. Owners of fresh combinations of capital were often "hungrier"—more aggressive—than their older, more established counterparts. They were often more adaptive to swiftly changing circumstances, and therefore more competitive.

It takes hard work, savings, and skillful entrepreneurial judgment to compete in already developed industries. It was, once again, much easier to go to one's friends in government and receive licenses, subsidies, charters, contracts, tariff protection, and land grants, which assured one of a secure position without having earned it.

Many of the businessmen from the largest industries and the older firms, therefore, curried favors with their friends and clients in the government. Through them, businessmen were able to set up and influence, for instance, so-called "regulatory agencies" for their respective industries, such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Bureau of Corporations, the Food and Drug Administration, the

Federal Trade Commission, and perhaps most importantly of all, the Federal Reserve System. In this way, the big corporations, through their representatives, were able to "regulate" themselves, to discourage competition, and to lay the foundation for what was to become the semi-monopolistic 20th century American Corporate State.

Militarism Vs. Market

It is highly unlikely that the interface of United States business and government as we now know it—the American Corporate State—could have grown as it did had it not been for the massive interferences into the economy caused by sixty years of war, militarism, and war preparations. "War," as Randolph Bourne aptly put it, "is the health of the State." The corollary of Bourne's insight can be stated thus: Militarism is the kiss of death for the free market.

War and militarism create vested interests which, even after the formalities of actual war cease, continue to foster relations of interdependence and interpenetration between business people and government officials.

War preparations are truly the cement which holds the partnership of American business and government together.

The well-developed system of defense contracts, cost-plus arrangements, and interlocking directorates among the Pentagon and pivotal sectors of American business, makes a mockery of free enterprise. And those who continue to prate about "free enterprise" while pushing for even larger military outlays, and for an even greater penetration of our economy by "Pentagon capitalism" must be viewed—this is the most charitable interpretation—as hopeless naive and out of touch with reality.

It is no accident that anti-militarism has been a major plank in the platform of Libertarian movements throughout history. Libertarians have always recognized that militarism and the free market are incompatible. It must be emphasized here that Libertarianism is not a philosophy tailored to simpler days and less anxious times.

The regime of liberty always was and today remains the only viable alternative to the economic turmoil and authoritarian social relationship caused by militaristic aspirations and adventures. Our view is that Libertarian economic policy is the requisite for peace, harmony, and expanding economic welfare in all times and under all circumstances.

Socializing Cost Of Risk

The hallmark of the private property, free market system is that those who take business risks must bear the responsibilities for their decisions. For the profit and loss mechanism to function effectively, losses must be privately borne as well as profits personally reaped. As we enter the last quarter of the 20th century, the private responsibility for riskbearing is a declining reality for a growing sector of the business community.

Dinosaur firms which ought to fold and go out of business—thus shifting capital to new and dynamic enterprises—are, for "overriding social purposes," kept alive with tax dollars, credits, and government loans. Lockheed and Penn Central are only the most famous examples of a long list of such waste of precious capital. Foundering financial institutions are rescued from the full impact of their imprudent loan decisions by Federal Reserve bailouts and coverups.

There has even been discussion of reviving the archetypical New Deal agency for "bailout capitalism," the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. This new RFC would stand by to socialize the costs and risks of any firm deemed necessary to the "national interest" or any firm whose failure would

tor of the economy.

It does not take much imagination to figure out who will determine which businesses are "in the national interest" (a term which is just as elastic as "for reasons of national security"). More and more, what used to be private business decisions are crowded out of the market sector and are now determined by political pull and hidden alliances. And, to top it off, the consumers and taxpayers are left to pick up the bill for an increasingly inefficient system.

Decades of interventions into the market system have created deep contradictions and misallocations, as well as a disharmony of interests among the various sectors of the economy—the very opposite of what happens in a purely free market system. These decades of governmental interventions have slowly but systematically begun to destroy the nearly automatic self-coordination mechanism of the market process. In case after case, the "invisible hand" of the free market has been replaced by the all too visible iron fist of tougher, "no nonsense" regulations.

Since there are well-heeled vested interests who keep benefitting from the assorted regulations, it becomes increasingly difficult to dismantle them. Just look at the howl coming from the transportation and airline industries recently when it was suggested that deregulation begin in their protected sectors. And in order to "make the system work," more comprehensive regulations and tighter controls have been imposed on the whole business community. These controls have occasionally been loosened; but then they seem to get tighter than ever with each succeeding round of economic crises.

Competitive Sector

The result of all this has been to heap enormous power and privilege on a relatively few, but very influential and strategically positioned, business leaders, corporations, and financial institutions. But, there are still tens of thousands of businessmen—both large and small—who do not make their living primarily through government, and who do not have a say in making regulatory and tax policy. For them, regulations are a nightmare of bureaucratic red tape and exasperating and costly paperwork, which threaten their very existence.

The effects of regulations imposed on the economy thus fall unevenly on the business community. This has led to the formation of two clear—though not always distinct—sectors within American business. First, there is the privileged, or what we can call the "protected sector." Second there is the part which, rather than being aided, is exploited—what we can call the "competitive sector."

It is with this competitive sector and with the consumers that we Libertarians align ourselves, as we demand an end to privileges, inefficiencies, and exploitation which are the essence of the regulated, neo-mercantilist economy.

We call for the complete separation of Economy and State. Just as we demand that there be no intervention in our personal lives and mental and spiritual activities, so, too, do we insist that there be no intervention in the economic sphere. The businessman who is not using force or fraud should remain unhampered by government (there should be no prohibition of "capitalist acts between consenting adults"); by the same token, the government should not underwrite business in any manner: no favors, subsidies, bailouts, tariffs, regulatory agencies, credits to exporters, or loan guarantees.

Libertarians look forward to the day when all businessmen operate solely in the competitive sector, and none remain in the privileged protected sector. We will fight the political battle until the protected sec-

A Little-known Journal, But a Major Force in the New American Revolution.

You may never have heard of *Libertarian Review*, even though it is in its fourth year of publication.

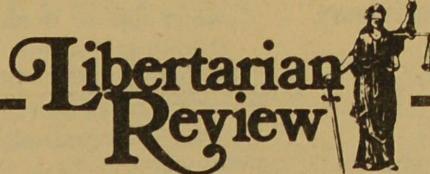
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SA767

MacBride Hits High Court Gay Ruling

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — Libertarian Party presidential candidate Roger MacBride has sharply criticized the Supreme Court decision to uphold the constitutionality of a Virginia law that outlaws homosexual acts between consenting adults.

Speaking on Mar. 31, to the Student Legal Forum at the University of Virginia, MacBride, a former Fulbright Scholar in Constitutional law, said the Court made "a grave error" by refusing to hear arguments appealing an earlier District Court decision which ruled that the Virginia statute did not violate the Bill of Rights.

The Virginia law is typical of many state laws which provide for criminal penalties for unconventional sexual activities, even if they are done in private by consenting adults. The Libertarian candidate said the law is "monstrous and totally wrong—that a nation founded on the precepts of individual liberty should allow such a statute to exist is inexcusable."

MacBride, who expects to be on the bal-

lot in about three-fourths of the states, is running on a platform which calls for the abolition of all "victimless crime" laws, including those involving consensual sexual activity. The Libertarian platform also advocates a free market economy and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

In reacting to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling MacBride said he was "profoundly disappointed that four Justices on the nation's highest court refused an opportunity to make a ruling that could have accomplished the long overdue task of wiping from the books laws in 35 states which presume to dictate private human behavior."

"The state," MacBride declared, "has no business whatsoever violating each individual's natural right to choose whatever life style he or she deems appropriate. It is a primary purpose of the Libertarian Party to see that all these intolerant, liberty-stifling laws are one day repealed so that homosexual and bisexual individuals will at last be granted their full rights as human

beings."

MacBride also announced that his presidential campaign committee has published a 12-page booklet entitled "Gay Rights: A Libertarian Approach." The booklet, which is to be distributed to the media, today, traces what MacBride called "the history of state persecution of the gay community through the ages." He challenged all other presidential candidates to endorse a ten-point platform listed in the booklet that is designed to end government har-

rassment and discrimination against gays.

"We hope this booklet will provide a rallying point for gays throughout the United States and a reason for them to join and support the Libertarian Party," said MacBride. "The Libertarian Party is creating a great coalition of individuals from all walks of life—businessmen, students, doctors, peaceful gun owners, gays, former liberals and former conservatives—who just want the government to leave them alone," he concluded.

Ballot Drives

(Continued from page 1)

states in which MacBride campaigned were New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Ohio, New York, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. (See state news inside for details of those visits.)

In April, MacBride visited Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. MacBride's DC-3 may not be as fast as Air Force One, but it seems to get the job done—and it doesn't use tax dollars to do it.

Vice Presidential candidate Dave Bergland campaigned in Alaska in late March,

speaking to the state convention there. In April, Bergland spoke at a tax seminar in Chicago, then campaigned in Michigan, North Carolina, and Florida. Those states were selected because each has a difficult ballot drive underway.

Major media coverage of the campaign in recent weeks has included a two-page article on MacBride in *People* magazine (estimated readership of 5 million), a 10-minute spot on national Public Broadcasting television, and a lengthy article in the *New York Times*.

Best Letter to Editor

The LP NEWS awards \$10 to the author of the best recent letter to editor published in a newspaper or magazine. The letter must mention the Libertarian Party and should list the local or national address or telephone number of the party. The best letter appeared in Mar. 10 Toms River (N.J.) *Reporter*:

To The Editor:

During the 1975 Assembly campaigns, I had understood that those Libertarian Party candidates favored the eventual elimination of the federal, state, and county welfare subsidies. Hearing that, I had thought of the Libertarian Party as a callous bunch of selfish cut-throats, out to live high off the hog at the expense of the impoverished, less fortunate people. But a closer look reveals that just ain't true!

What these Libertarians are really saying is simply this: People cannot give away to others what has not been produced—the basic virtue is productivity, not charity. Yet charity is an important part of the libertarian social philosophy, and, in my opinion, the contrast that they draw between charity and political welfare is not only acutely perceptive, but also preeminently just.

Charity, they tell me—and I agree—

is a voluntary response to one's own values, a reaffirmation of one's respect for and confidence in the human potential of others. By contrast, welfarism is entirely a compulsory response to values imposed by others—usually some "do-gooder" bureaucrats trying to justify their job.

Hence, while charity is a virtuous characteristic of civilized society, welfarism is a moral cancer of theft-made legal and enforced by a government "gun."

We who are sincerely concerned about those less fortunate than us ought to remember that in free societies, where property rights of producers (those who work) are respected, rich and poor alike fare best by the resultant abundance freely created.

In this respect, I can agree with the Libertarian Party: Compulsory "charity" is a contradiction in terms, and we ought to get rid of those politicians in office who don't understand this. Let me say, were I in need of assistance, I would rather accept one dollar voluntarily offered than a bucket full stolen from hapless taxpayers by those welfare politicians.

Karen Seems
Toms River

Liberty of action being the first essential to the exercise of faculties, and therefore the first essential to happiness; and the liberty of each limited by the like liberties of all, being the form which this first essential assumes when applied to many instead of one; it follows that this liberty of each, limited by the like liberties of all, is the rule in conformity with which society must be organized.

—Herbert Spencer

True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting.... There will not be different laws at Rome and Athens, or different laws now and in the future, but one eternal and unchangeable law will be valid for all nations and all times.

—Cicero

National Membership Application

NAME (Mr./Ms.) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Are you presently a member of your state LP? _____

(Optional) Birth date _____ Occupation _____

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

(National membership includes a subscription to the LP NEWS.)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Student (\$6)
- Regular (\$8)
- Sustaining (\$12)
- Patron (\$50)
- Lifetime (\$250)
- Life Sustaining (\$1000)

MAIL TO:

Libertarian Party
National Headquarters
1516 P Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

SIGNATURE _____

Republican official backs Libertarians

N BOROUGH — What's a public councilman who has considered a conservative political party advocating abolition and FBI?

M. Enteline of 8 Church St., of the Borough Council from, said he first heard of the John A. see urges: of New York decided

tury "would be bland compared to the problems than it cures, the Libertarian Party presidential candidate told a rally here Friday.

The former councilman said that readings in libertarian philosophy have changed his outlook since he was on the council to a more "purist" direction.

"I don't believe in zoning any more, yet at one time I did believe in it," he said. "I don't think."

California will give the LP ballot recognition, MacBride said.

MACBRIDE IS a pudgy little man who wears horn-rimmed glasses and a constant cherubic smile. He is a graduate of Princeton University and the Harvard Law School, was a Fulbright scholar.

Roger L. MacBride told an enthusiastic audience the time has come to "legalize liberty" and get the government out of its citizens' private affairs.

be on the ballot in November in minimum of 32 states to a maximum of 49. By LARRY BERESFORD

The majority of Americans can be won over to the idea of less crimes if it is them, Roger L. Libertarian Party leader, said in an interview.

MacBride said that the answers to the economic problems of inflation and unemployment "are not as complicated as the politicians make out," and are actually caused by the policies of the federal government intervening in the economy.

MacBride said that if the United States stopped the policy of trying

to make the world "fit our ideas," then it could dismantle U.S. military bases around the world, bring home U.S. troops from

the economy.

MACBRIDE WOULD pull out SEATO and all the

infringing philosophy, a belief in "across the board

murder, he said.

What he may have is the most

evil, MacBride, a 46-year-old lawyer turned

producer and farmer, is the candidate of

the San Francisco party.

What MacBride believes essentially is

that a person who cannot do as long as that person is on

the rights of someone else.

JAL DAILY In an interview yesterday during a

cost less stop in Cincinnati, MacBride outlined some

of the \$100 things he would like to do if he were

elected.

spot on the ballot.

MacBride began by terming the differences between the two major parties "insignificant."

He favors a non-interventionist foreign policy which he says harks back to Gen. George Washington.

MacBride was critical of U.S. participation in World War I and blamed that involvement on then President Woodrow Wilson. He said subsequent American foreign

policy resulted from

MacBride also said the Bureau of

censorship, and repeal of

governing sexual acts

between consenting adults

advocated legalization

marijuana, and making

"sexes equal before the law."

Libertarians, he added, had

position on abortion.

On the subject of the economy, MacBride said that inflation

product of government intervention in the sphere

enterprise.

MacBride also said the Bureau of

is skeptical about how ser-

press conference there is an

standing that this is a potential

for movement."

The Libertarian movement b-

five years ago in Denver when a s-

about the growing concentra-

power in government." They talked

The next accordin-

end of

MacBride,

candidate,

tern state,

Montana and Colora-

states have for individu-

ties, and the result is a world

much less safe for democracy."

In 1972, as a Presidential

Elector from Virginia, Mac-

Bride refused to vote for Rich-

ard and Spiro Agnew instead for

the miss

the problems of hu-

man freedom, and the me-

foreign affairs are both t-

out of overdose of gover-

nment, it's time for massive re-

nationalization of foreign poli-

cy, and the miss

News Notes & Campaign Comments

LOSS OF FAITH: Phil Tracy writing in the *Village Voice*: "There is something dreadfully wrong in Washington. Nobody, particularly liberals, any longer believes that the policies they advocate or the programs they propose will accomplish much more than the hiring of more government bureaucrats. They don't believe their own solutions..."

"It is now a well-enshrined platitude that the American people are disillusioned with their own government in general and Washington in particular."

"For some reason most people in Washington seem to feel this is basically just a public relations problem. Every Jackass politician in town has stood up at one time or another and babbled, 'We have to restore the people's faith in government.' But as far as I can see, this disillusionment has very little to do with PR. It has to do with reality."

LEAVING STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER: World-renown film director Ingmar Bergman has gone into self-imposed exile from his native Sweden in protest against his treatment at the hands of tax collectors.

Bergman said he has been a convinced Social Democrat and believed that Sweden was the best country in the world until his own tax case shocked him into realizing "that anybody in this country, any time, and in any way, can be attacked and humiliated by a special kind of bureaucracy that grows like a galloping cancer."

GOOD NEWS: On Apr. 22, Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm signed a so-called Sunset Law. The idea of Sunset Laws is to authorize all government agencies and programs for only a short while, then to put the burden of proof on the agencies to show that they are accomplishing the task for which they were set up. If the agencies do not justify their existence, they will automatically be terminated. Colorado Libertarians supported enactment of the reform.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION: Five thousand Jehovah's Witnesses are being held in prison labor camps in Malawi. Jehovah's Witnesses have refused on religious grounds to buy membership cards to the Malawi Congress Party.

CAPITALIST-ROADERS: Usually support for the market in communist countries comes from efficiency-minded experts iso-

lated from the public at large. For a brief period in Czechoslovakia in 1968, there was mass support for increased reliance on the market.

It is always difficult to interpret events in China. But the recent mass demonstrations in Peking in memory of Chou En-lai and in support of soon-to-be-deposed Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping may reflect popular support for the market, specialization of labor, and consumer-oriented production.

U.S. SNAIL: On Apr. 18, U.S. Postal Service fees for special delivery went from 60 cents to 80 cents, for a minimum money order from 25 cents to 30 cents, for certified mail from 30 cents to 40 cents, from 25 cents to 30 cents for special handling, and from 70 cents to 85 cents for collect-on-delivery mail. There were similar raises for other special postal services.

IT'S A RECORD: Uruguay has the highest concentration per capita of political prisoners in the world, with 5000 out of a population of 2.5 million in prison. One in every 50 Uruguayans has been arrested or interrogated by the military authorities. At least 22 persons are known to have been tortured to death... The country has been experiencing rapid inflation. In 1973, the exchange rate was 1100 Uruguayan pesos to the U.S. dollar; by the end of 1975, the rate was 2270 to the dollar.

DUMP THE HUMP: Hubert Humphrey's record on civil liberties is clear. He sponsored an amendment to the McCarran Act of 1950 to establish concentration camps, in which government-designated subversives would be incarcerated in time of war... sponsored in 1954 the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party... suggested in 1952 that certain labor unions be denied the right to act as collective bargaining agents because of the political beliefs of their members.

POLITICS OF JOY: With regard to domestic economic policy, Humphrey's first speech in the Senate called for setting up a public authority like the TVA in the Missouri River valley... He has been a persistent opponent of margarine as a butter substitute (His bread is buttered by the dairy interests...) has been a persistent proponent of higher price supports combined with inflexible production controls as a farm policy...

The first bill Humphrey introduced after

arriving in Washington was for socialized medicine... As mayor of Minneapolis, he pressed for passage of the first municipal fair employment practices ordinance. This law, which aimed at halting racial discrimination in hiring, brought government intervention into employment decisions.

Humphrey was a major designer of federal aid to and control over education as the original author of the 1958 National Defense Education Act... Humphrey was floor leader for the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which had public accommodations provisions through which the federal government forbade racial discrimination in hotels, restaurants, and theaters. Under this law, the government prevents property owners from deciding whom they will serve.

Humphrey's two most recent recipes for bigger government are the Humphrey-Javits bill and the Humphrey-Hawkins bill. The Humphrey-Javits bill would institute central economic planning *a la France*... The Humphrey-Hawkins bill would mandate federal employment of the jobless. (Jimmy Carter recently endorsed this bill.)

THE CAUSE IS MANKIND: Hubert Humphrey was the mentor and protector of the leaders of the U.S. National Student Association in the 1950s and 1960s, while they were funded by and worked for the CIA... Concerning the CIA itself, he said, "The American people feel better because there is a CIA."

Humphrey was the father of the Food for Peace program (PL 480). Under this program the farm surpluses created by price supports are exported by the U.S. government outside normal market channels. (One of the peaceful uses of Food for Peace was described by Michael Novak in the Aug. 23, 1967, *National Catholic Reporter*. Novak told how Food for Peace commodities were used by the U.S. in Vietnam as payment in kind to the Saigon government's militiamen.)

Humphrey is a confirmed interventionist... He denounced the "whiners and quitters" who wished to end U.S. intervention in Vietnam... In 1966, he said: "Some of same people who say we have no business in Asia today were saying, in 1939, that we had no business in Europe. Some of the same people who say we have no business in Vietnam today were saying, in 1948, that we had no business in Greece—in 1950, that we had no business in Korea."

MODEST PROPOSAL: India is moving toward a policy of forced sterilization. Maharashtra, the most populous of India's 22 states, has passed a compulsory sterilization law. Karan Singh, the federal minister for health and family planning says: "We are of the view that where a state legislature decides that the time is ripe and it is necessary to pass legislation for compulsory sterilization it may do so."

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Federal regulations require that knee space between school bus seats must not exceed 24 inches.

But the State of California, whose regulations are stricter than federal laws, requires that the same knee space may not be less than 25 inches.

OOPS: The Consumer Product Safety Commission spent \$142,000 on a study which determined that most injuries which occurred in bathtubs and showers were the result of "slips and falls."

STILL LIFE: An antique dealer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was arrested for selling an old moonshine still made of cooper and brass. The dealer is now free on \$2,000 bond, and faces up to five years in jail.

CARTER'S LITTLE PILLS: Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter was recently asked if he would "decrease the number of federal bureaucrats."

"I can't say if they would be exactly the same, or more," replied the peanut farmer, "Even if I was (sic) in the White House now, I couldn't say."

The same, or more. How about fewer?

Crane

(Continued from page 2)

it? What about poor people — how would they survive without minimum wage laws and government welfare? Doesn't the Standard Oil case prove free enterprise doesn't work? Etc.

The Vassar audience largely ignored the fact that I had made a stronger and more consistent case for civil liberties than Morris Udall, Jimmy Carter, Hubert Humphrey or whichever "liberal" they might be supporting would ever dare to make. Yet civil liberties is what presumably motivates these people politically.

I believe that the ignorance of economics which several of the students in the Vassar audience were so eager to display can largely be overcome. The manifest failures of Keynesian economics and government "fine-tuning" proposals can not be hidden much longer, and the intelligent minds of young people will inevitably seek another answer.

Boom And Bust

Said one student to me after my speech, "But even free market economists say that capitalism must lead to sharply fluctuating boom and bust cycles." Oh, really? Have you read Mises or Hayek or Rothbard? "Who are they?" Free market economists who understand the free market. And so a budding young Keynesian wandered off after jotting down a book title: *Man, Economy and State*.

While most Americans may view themselves as "middle-of-the-roaders," it is the liberals and conservatives who are the movers and shakers — the ones who shape the direction of politics in America. And in time libertarians can capture the imagination of both groups. Conservatives and liberals won't listen to each other, but they will listen to us because they will see that we can articulate their respective causes — economic freedom and civil liberties — better than they can themselves.

Emotionally, the barriers to bringing these two political movements together through libertarianism is still quite strong. Intellectually, however, the prospects grow brighter and the barriers ever weaker.

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ROGER MACBRIDE: Press Conference

The Libertarian Party's presidential candidate meets the press in this on-the-spot recording. Charging that Republican and Democratic policies have led to disaster, MacBride calls for major changes. He discusses his position on inflation, crime and foreign intervention. Following his prepared statement is a question-and-answer session. (MacBride is introduced by Bob Meier, his campaign committee chairman, who speaks briefly about the candidate's background and the platform and principles of the LP.)

JOHN HOSPERS: Two Convention Addresses

The first presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party (and recipient of one history-making electoral vote) delivered the key addresses at the 1974 and 1975 national LP conventions. *To Keep Time With*, his 1974 Dallas speech, is an analysis of the "universal madness" of America's political and economic policies. Hospers also discusses his visit to the libertarian new-country projects in the Bahamas, and ventures some predictions regarding the future of the LP. *A Bill of Goods*, his 1975 New York address, is a discussion of "the various bills of goods that people all over the world have been sold." This, claims Hospers, "is the principal source of the world's problems... and the main thing that we as libertarians have to fight." He talks about victimless crimes, government waste, taxation, inflation, government regulation, foreign policy and the energy crisis.

ED CRANE: Introducing the Libertarian Party

National LP chairman Ed Crane, speaking to a group of reporters and congressional aides in Washington, discusses the philosophy of the Party, its internal organization, its relationship with other political parties and groups, and its future plans. Crane explains why the Libertarian Party is needed, reviews its success to date, and analyzes the prospects for a libertarian revolution.

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