

LPC Monthly



The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

April 1997

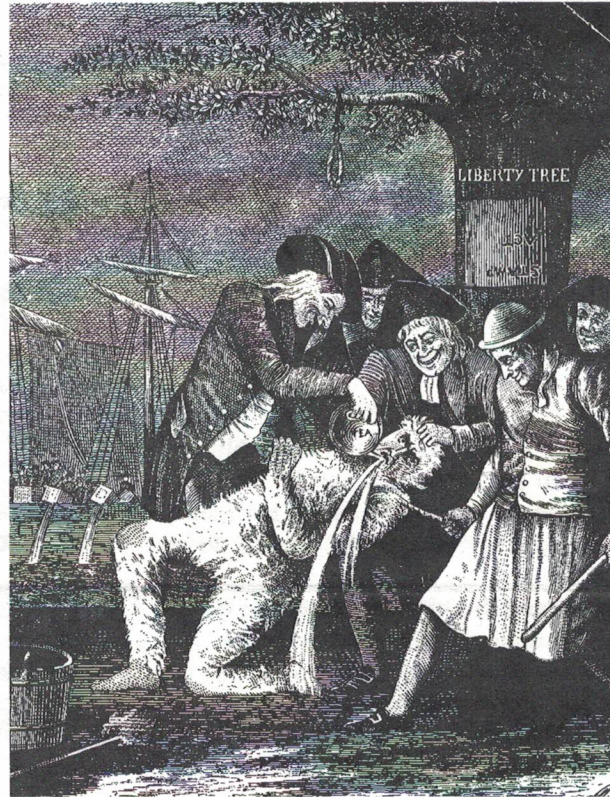
UMP Goes Into Effect

Memberships of National and State Libertarian Parties Combine

The Libertarian Party of California has officially joined the national LP's Unified Membership Plan (UMP), under which one dues payment of \$25.00 qualifies individuals as LP members at the national, state and local levels. Previously, members had the somewhat confusing choice of joining the party at the national level for a fee of \$25.00, at the state and local levels for a fee of \$25.00, or at all three levels for a fee of \$45.00.

In addition to simplifying the membership structure, the most immediate benefit of this change is increased news and information delivered to members. Almost 2,000 previously national-only members will now receive *LPC Monthly*, the newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California, beginning with this issue. (If this is the first edition of *LPC Monthly* that you have received and you are wondering why it was sent to you, now you know!) About 1,000 previously state-only members will receive *LP News*, the national party's newsletter, starting with the May issue.

Implementation of the UMP was a top priority of the new LPC administration, which began preparing the needed changes in the state party's data processing systems and procedures immediately after the plan received a positive reception from delegates and Executive Com-



TAX PROTESTS: American colonists pour scalding tea into the mouth of a tarred and feathered British tax collector. This month, many LPC regions will be sponsoring their own tax protests — though probably none as aggressive as the one pictured above! Contact your local regions for complete details.

mittee members at the LPC's Convention in February. The final go-ahead to join the program was given by the LPC Operations Committee on March 27th.

Supporters of the UMP say that one of its biggest benefits will be an increase in the pool of potential candidates, volunteers, and contributors that can be tapped by the regional organizations.

For more information about the Libertarian Party of California, its structure, and how you can participate in its activities, events and leadership, see *Are You a Central Committee Member?* on page 5. ■

Libertarian Elected Mayor Pro Tem

Freedom has Champion in Bellflower, California

We are pleased to report that veteran Libertarian activist and member of Region 65 Art Olivier has been elected Mayor Pro Tem (Vice-Mayor) of Bellflower, a city of 63,000 located ten miles south of Los Angeles. A member of the Bellflower City Council for the past three years, Olivier was re-elected last month and named Mayor Pro Tem by his peers on the five member council. In his new position, he will assume the responsibilities of mayor if and whenever necessary.

As a City Council Member, Olivier has had his hands full fighting local tax increases and regulations. "It's been tough," he

says, "because for a long time the council's been domin- (continued on page 5)

I N S I D E

► *More Details on the UMP*

► *Jacob Hornberger*

► *New Waco Documentary*

► *Columns, Letters & More!*

April 1997

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Send changes of address to: Libertarian Party of California, 655 Lewelling Blvd. #362, San Leandro, CA, 94579.

LETTERS

Pot Posse Rides Again

The California legislature is at odds over whether to opt-out of the unfunded federal mandate "Smoke-A-Joint, Lose Your License" or to extend it indefinitely. Under this policy, possession of any quantity of marijuana requires at least a 6-month drivers license suspension.

Since March 1st, California has been in violation of federal law by not passing one option or the other, and stands to lose \$92 million in federal highway aid

if it doesn't pass one soon. Readers should oppose "Smoke-A-Joint, Lose Your License" and call or write their legislators and ask them to pass an opt-out bill.

SB131, in the State Senate, would opt-out. AB74, however, has passed the Assembly and would extend the policy indefinitely. Recently, the Senate voted on SB131 as an emergency measure, requiring a two-thirds majority to go into effect immediately. It failed with a vote of 23-14, but could still be passed effective 1/1/98. Another possibility is that the legislature will pass both SB131 and AB74, in which case the Governor will sign AB74, making "Smoke-A-Joint, Lose Your License" permanent. The most ominous possibility is that AB74 will pass with a two-thirds majority, going into effect immediately. What is virtually certain is that the legislature will pass one of the two.

Please call or write your State Senators NOW and ask them to oppose AB74 and support SB131. You can reach your Senator (or find out who your Senator is) by calling the legislature's main number at (916) 322-9900.

GAIL LIGHTFOOT
Pismo Beach, CA

Where There's Smoke

Our HSU Libertarian Club has been up to no good lately. We found out recently that the Arcata City Council was going to try to ban outdoor smoking in all public places. California is considering banning smoking at any workplace, including bars, and our Green Party majority City Council wanted to get a head start.

Anyway, as soon as we found out about this, we made flyers and handed them out all over town, promising free cigarettes to all who attend the council meeting, and the turnout was almost

80% smokers and supporters of smokers rights. The other side just had the local health bureaucrats and one doctor. Although the word

Libertarian never came up, we managed to get on the news — a good spot where one of our members said, "You should be free to smoke anything you want." We kept the Council there until everyone on both sides had had enough and there was no time to vote, so we at least delayed things — and hopefully, before the next council

meeting, we can talk to some of the members and convince them that this is a bad idea, that they should let the rules of a polite society and common courtesy stand as the only things governing smokers in Arcata.

JOSH BARBEE
Arcata, CA

Hail to the Chief Hooker

Since Bill Clinton has made so much money in the Lincoln Bedroom, I think we should give him the Hooker of the Year Award — and have [Libertarian and prostitute-rights activist] Norma Jean Almodovar present it!

ETHEL MOHLER
Crestline, CA

Funny or Foul

Your article on page 5 of the February LPC Monthly ["The Devil and Miss Jones"] lacks sensitivity, merges a valid issue with vulgarity, and brings disrespect upon The Libertarian Party.

A NEW READER
Sacramento, CA

Great newsletter! I especially liked the piece by David Dorfman, "The Devil and Miss Jones," which was hilarious. It's nice to see that Libertarians have a sense of humor!

JANICE PAYNE
Bishop, CA



Send your letters to:
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LPC Membership Chair Named



Pat Wright

LPC Chair Mark Hinkle has re-appointed veteran activist Pat Wright of San Diego as LPC Membership Chair. Wright held the same position last year.

To build party membership, Wright intends to focus his efforts on recruiting lapsed members and registered Libertarians. His effectiveness as a membership builder is well-proven. A former LPC Chair, he made growing the party top priority during his term (1991-92), and our membership subsequently soared to its highest level ever — about 4,000 dues-payers. As a past Chair of San Diego (R37), he was also instrumental in transforming that LPC region into the state's largest.

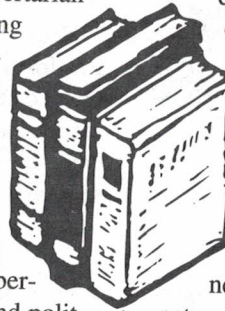
"I look forward to working with the new Excom," he said, "and building party membership as much as possible." ■

New Lending Library for LPC

Are the names Hyeck, Nock, Rothbard, Boaz and those of other noted libertarian authors woefully absent from your local libraries and book stores? If so, don't despair. Region 10 Chair Pamela Pescosolido has turned her extensive personal collection of libertarian literature into a "by mail" lending library open to all LPC members. Her goal: to provide California Libertarians with access to many essential but hard-to-find pro-freedom books.

"I have a large and eclectic collection of books," says Pescosolido, "on subjects like libertarian philosophy, free-market and political thought, free speech issues, history, spirituality, religion and more. If you'd like to receive a complete list, e-mail your request to me and I'll send it to you."

How will Pescosolido's Liberty Library of California work?



"I request a deposit of \$20 from first-time borrowers," she explains. "Once someone has made their deposit, they can check out books by sending me a note via e-mail or regular mail, or by leaving a phone message. I'll ship the book via the USPS." Pescosolido will also include a return address label and an invoice for the cost of outgoing postage. The only charges (other than the refundable deposit) will be reimbursement of outgoing postage, and, of course, the postage required to return checked out books. (Pescosolido estimates postage to cost less than \$3.00 each way.) "All books should be returned no later than two weeks after borrowers receive them," says the new Libertarian librarian. "When a patron believes he or she will no longer use the library service, their deposit will be refunded in full."

Anyone interested in borrowing books from the new Liberty Library of California should call Pam Pescosolido at (209) 592-5179 or e-mail her at <hourglass@earthlink.net>. ■

Excom Meeting Highlights

The LPC's Executive Committee met in Santa Clara on March 22 to hear reports from officers and make plans for the year.

Treasurer Eric Fine and activist Aaron Starr (R56) reported on the new accounting system that they had set up, and on the financial state of the party. A completely new budget was adopted for 1997, reflecting a new chart of accounts, a switch from cash to accrual accounting, and the Unified Membership Plan. Other notable changes included a doubling of the vice chairs' discretionary budgets for assisting regional development and ending spending for a separate LPC 800-number.

Regional Rep. Joe Dehn presented a progress report on the Unified Membership Plan and new *(continued on page 5)*

Laissez Faire On-Line

There's a great new way to access free market information on the World Wide Web

by Chris Whitten

Good news for on-line libertarians: the full-text search engine on free-market.com is now much more comprehensive and easier to use. Here's the scoop...

Let's say you're interested in education policy reform and want to read more about the subject. As everyone knows, there are millions of documents on the Internet, so you decide to start your research on the World Wide Web. But how do you find the documents you want? You could use an Internet-wide search engine: entering "education reform" would net you about 10,000 hits — everything from official government



documents to a kid in Iowa complaining about his school.

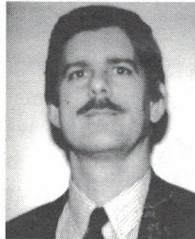
But if you're anything like me, you don't want to read stuff from any yahoo with a Web server: you want to read what intelligent, professional free-marketers think about education reform. That means you're going to perform your search with the free-market.com search engine — which enables you to access documents from the complete web sites of these fmc partner organizations: The Cato Institute, Reason Magazine, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Institute for Objectivist Studies, Laissez Faire Books, Heartland Institute, Fraser Institute, Future of Freedom Foundation, Institute *(continued on page 10)*

From The Chair:

Focusing on Our Goals

by Mark Hinkle

In last month's column I outlined the three main goals I'd established for the Libertarian Party of California to achieve in 1997:



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

Each month I'm going to repeat those goals for two reasons: 1) to remind you what our goals are; and 2) to remind me and the rest of our Executive Committee to remain focused upon them. If we become distracted from achieving our goals, failure will undoubtedly follow. We've had enough of failure. We've got a good chance to turn this party around and make it grow. Otherwise I wouldn't have accepted the draft movement to elect me as your Chair.

If you and I can achieve these goals, the LPC will be a much stronger and more effective organization than it is today — an end well worth pursuing.

The delegates at this year's convention amended our Bylaws to allow the state party to combine its membership with that of the national organization. Following the convention, the Excom voted to implement the Unified Membership Plan (UMP) and thanks to a great deal of detailed work by Joe Dehn, all of our members now belong to both the national and state parties. As a result, our total membership has almost doubled to 4,400.

The UMP is a great deal for our members: your basic \$25 dues gets you membership in your regional party, the state party and the national party. Each member will receive both *LP News* and *LPC Monthly*, two excellent publications.

Gone is the confusion about which organization you belonged to; gone are the costs of duplicate renewal mailings, allowing your dues and contributions to be spent more productively.

With the added value of both newsletters for the basic \$25 dues, reaching our membership goal of 5,000 by year end is realistic and achievable. Furthermore, the national LP is planning a massive half a million dollar membership drive this year — and you can bet a significant portion of that budget is going to be spent right here in California! After all, we're the largest Libertarian state party by far. Plus, to make sure we're not dependent on national for our growth, I have appointed Pat Wright as our Membership Chair. Pat is a former Chair of the LPC. Under his leadership, we doubled our membership from approximately 2,000 to over 4,000 members....in just one just year! It's good to have him on our team.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that our first monthly fundraising letter to the combined membership has, so far, returned over \$8,000! We're on track to reach our goal of raising \$150,000 in revenues by year end. I've asked Perry Martin, our newsletter editor, to find space in this publication each month to graph our progress — look for it next issue. I want you to know exactly how well we are doing in terms of membership and revenue growth each month.

Watch us grow! Help us grow! ■

SPECIAL THANKS

The LPC wishes to thank **Thea** and **Hugh McLean**, who have provided our organization with database and bookkeeping services for the past 7 years. Their dedication and professionalism will be missed. We would also like to thank **Steven Alexander**, who has spent many hours providing database programming for the LPC.

For Your Information...

Renewing membership

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

Address changes

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

Special requests

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

Your address label

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

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

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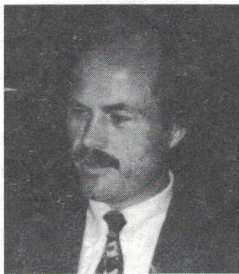
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Libertarian Elected

(continued from page 1)

nated by three good ol' boys with, let's just say, some possible conflicts of interest." This year, Olivier thinks things may be different.

"In addition to me," he explains, "Ruth Green, an anti-tax, anti-regulation Republican was re-elected; and Joe Cvetko, a Democrat who hates taxes, is returning to the council after a hiatus. That gives us a fairly strong pro-freedom majority." Making room for Cvetko was



Art Olivier

Ken Cleveland, who lost a bid for re-election despite his twenty years on the city council, his status as a four-time mayor, and the fact that he out-spent all of the other candidates. Olivier believes that Cleveland's loss is freedom's gain.

"A lot of questionable stuff went on around him," Olivier says. "For example, we have an ordinance prohibiting RV owners from parking their vehicles in their driveways; it was never enforced — until one of Cleveland's friends opened up an RV parking facility!"

Olivier is well known in his community for "The Political Money Trail," a cable TV show that he co-hosts with fellow Libertarian Richard Gard. Now in its seventh year, the weekly series ferrets out corruption in government — and has become a thorn in the side of several local politicians. Last year, it exposed Cleveland's ties to the city's trash collection contractor, who was using undersized bins to line his pockets at the taxpayers' expense. The story was picked up by the local media and probably played a role in Cleveland's failure to gain re-election.

Olivier believes he has a strong chance of becoming mayor next year. A professional engineer, he lives in Bellflower with his wife Joyce and their three daughters Cassandra, Alyssa and Krista. ■

Are You a Central Committee Member?

If you've paid your dues and signed the pledge against force, the answer is "yes!"

By paying your membership dues and signing the pledge certifying you don't advocate the initiation of force, you automatically become a Libertarian Party of California **central committee member**. That means you are a vital part of the LPC's organizational structure, which starts at the "grass roots" level.

Get active

The LPC is divided geographically into **regions**. (In most cases a region corresponds to a county.) Regions generally have periodic meetings at which all central committee members have a vote in the decisions that are made. Contact your region (see page 11) for information on meeting times and locations.

If you want to become more deeply involved in planning the LP's business and activities in your area, consider becoming a **regional officer**. Central committee members elect their regional officers annually.

Conventions

As a central committee member you are

also eligible to be a **delegate** to the annual **state convention**. Each region is eligible to send a number of delegates in proportion to its fraction of the statewide central committee membership. At the state convention, delegates consider and vote on changes to the state LP platform and bylaws, and, in odd years, elect the **state officers**. These officers, together with representatives selected by the five largest regions and five members elected at-large by delegates from the rest of the regions, comprise the **state executive committee** (Excom) which governs the LPC between conventions.

In even years, delegates at state conventions elect the California delegates to the **national convention**. At the national convention, delegates consider changes to the national LP platform and bylaws, elect the **national officers** and other members of the **Libertarian National Committee** (LNC), and, every four years, decide who will be the LP's candidates for President and Vice-President.

It's up to you!

From planning local activities to selecting our national standard-bearers, your input is important to the success of the Libertarian Party. Attend the next meeting in your region and get involved! ■

Excom Meeting

(continued from page 3)

database. A proposal to make acceptance of the unified plan contingent on the dues being \$35 was discussed but rejected. To address concerns that some regions might encounter financial hardship as we make the transition to the new membership plan, it was decided to give small regions a supplementary payment of \$.30 per member per month through the end of 1997. Ways the LPC could help regions build their own financial strength through

fundraising training and support for their pledge programs were also discussed.

The Chair appointed William Crain, José Castañeda, Ted Brown, and himself as the Style Committee to review the Platform and Bylaws. Other items discussed included the 1998 convention, recruiting of candidates for 1998, policies relating to inactive regions, the status of material sales and telephone affinity programs, the lawsuit against the "open primary," and getting our own section in the Election Code.

The next Excom meeting is scheduled for June 14 in the Los Angeles area. ■

Fighting for Freedom

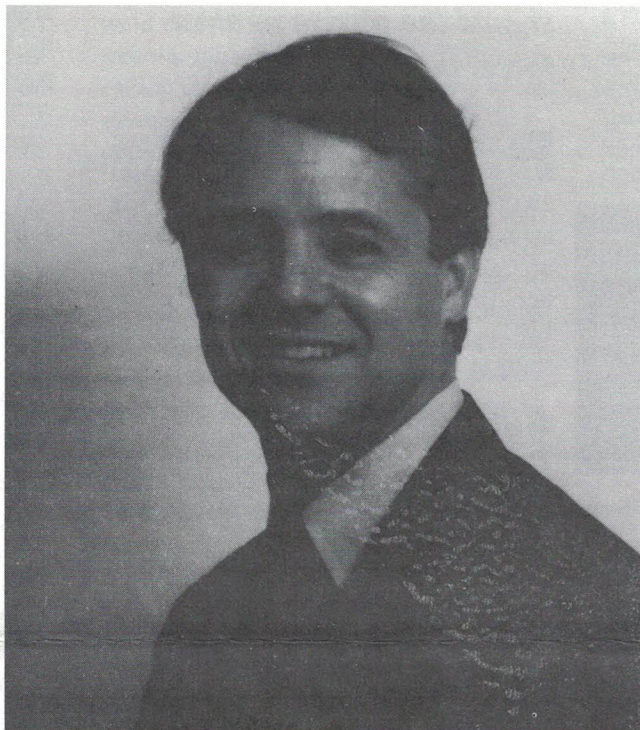
Jacob Hornberger tells us to stick to our principles and hit the enemy hard.

On Monday, February 17th, Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger addressed a group of Libertarians at a luncheon sponsored by the Samuel Adams Society at the LPC's 1997 Convention. One of Liberty's most articulate and inspiring advocates, Hornberger is the founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation, a libertarian educational foundation with a proud, indomitable motto: "We Don't Compromise." The following is an edited transcript of his speech.

Jacob Hornberger: It's a pleasure and an honor to be here, speaking before all you California Libertarians.

My friends, I cannot imagine a more insulting message than the one that Democratic and Republican candidates deliver to the people they ask to vote for them. The essence of their message is simple: "We believe you are a bad people — irresponsible, uncaring and incompetent. If you were responsible, caring and competent, like your ancestors, we wouldn't need Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and welfare. Your ancestors didn't need 'em. They were responsible, compassionate, competent people. But you are not. We must *force* you to honor your parents and to care for the elderly and needy. If you were responsible, we wouldn't need the War on Drugs; but if we legalized drugs all you people would be injecting heroin into your veins! You're incompetent: that's why we need public schools. Your ancestors didn't need 'em — for over 125 years Americans did without government run schools. But you're incompetent: we can't trust the education of your children to you!"

The sad truth is, most Americans have bought into this message. They honestly



"Some Libertarians think we should run our campaigns like a croquet game — safe, distinguished and polite. I don't agree with that at all. I think we're in a street fight."

believe what they're being told: that they are bad, irresponsible and uncaring. You see, government schools have been a great success — probably the government institution *most* successful at accomplishing its goal: producing good little citizens who believe that they need the government that has educated them. Not to mention the fact that most people believe that our socialist welfare state is actually free enterprise, and that our completely regulated way of life is actually a free society. They honestly believe they cannot be trusted with freedom, that they must be coerced into being good. This is what public schools have done. They have robbed the American people of their self-esteem.

But we Libertarians have a very different message. True, we have the econom-

ic argument, the practical case for freedom, and the moral argument. But we also have the psychological case for freedom. We say to people: "We believe in you! You don't need Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid or welfare. We believe in you! We believe you will honor your parents voluntarily, that you will help the poor, the needy and the disadvantaged. And for those who won't or can't, voluntarily funded agencies — private charities — will pick up the slack."

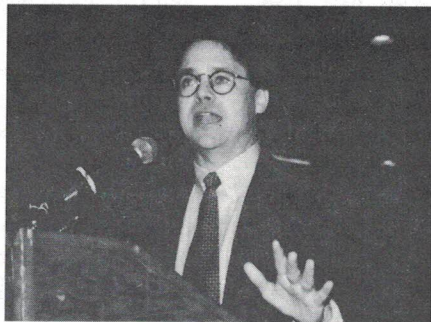
It's our message that separates Libertarians from everyone else. You see, Libertarians have a fierce commitment to reality: we see the world as it is, not as the government would have us see it. But we also have a high sense of what Thoreau and Emerson called "self-reliance" — belief in ourselves. None of *us* doubt we'd survive in a free society. And it is this concept of self-reliance that we must transmit to our fellow Americans. We must say to them: "We believe in you! But you have to start believ-

ing in yourselves!" Libertarians know that when you start believing in yourself, you start believing in others; that when your self-esteem rises, you start seeing the positive in others, rather than the negative. And when you start believing in others, you start believing in freedom; you start believing in cooperation rather than coercion. And that's the point when your support for the socialist welfare state evaporates. This is what terrifies Democrats and Republicans. They have a vested interest in making sure people think bad of themselves so that they'll keep supporting the mechanism that brings in great gobs of money to pay all the beneficiaries of the welfare state — including the politicians and bureaucrats who run them.

My friends, our message is a very

powerful one.

Six or seven years ago, I was asked to serve on the platform committee of the national LP. Not having read the platform, I assumed it'd be a standard statement of moderation — that is to say, it'd talk about reducing government spending, downsizing government, reducing taxation, vouchers for public schools, medical IRAs, Social



Security IRAs, etc. Excuse me if I offend anybody, but that's not the kind of stuff that excites me. But when I pulled out the platform and started to read it, I was awestruck — *stunned!* It was a purist libertarian manifesto: *Abolish* public schools! *Abolish* Social Security! *Abolish* Medicare! *Abolish* all taxation — not just some! I'm telling you, I started to get very excited — my heart was pounding — about abolishing “the cult of the omnipotent state!” So I get on this committee and everyone's arguing over phraseology, trying to make sure that a philosophical leak is not sprung in this document. And not once — *not once!* — did somebody ask, “Is this going to cost us votes?” It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I'll tell you another story... Sheldon Richmond, whom many of you know, is Vice President of Policy at The Future of Freedom Foundation. He wrote a book for us entitled *Separating School and State*, which called for the abolition of government schools; it rejects vouchers and shows how a free



market in education will work. Now he's completed a new book called *Your Money or Your Life: Why We Need To Abolish the Income Tax*. It's all about the tax's history and disastrous economic consequences. But when Sheldon came to the last chapter, he called me up. “I've got a problem,” he says. “It turns out that

if we abolish the income tax, we're knocking out \$1.3 trillion from the government's \$1.6 trillion budget” — and, keep in mind, he's not talking about

replacing the income tax with another tax. I'm proud to say that our foundation has not and will never call for any kind of taxation. So I said, “What's the problem?” and he said: “Well, are we going to be taken credibly?”

And I said, “When was the last time we worried about that?” (*audience laughs*) So he said, “I got an idea. Let me go see what \$300 billion will buy.” So two or three days later, Sheldon called me back

and said: “We got a *new* problem: it turns out that in inflation-adjusted dollars, \$300 billion will buy exactly the same level of government that existed in 1941. Now, I don't know about you, but if my Libertarian friends think



that I'm endorsing this, they're gonna call me a Franklin Roosevelt big government man!” (*audience laughs*) And I said, “You think you've got problems! If I publish a book that advocates cutting \$1.3 trillion from a \$1.6 trillion government budget, my friends are going to call me an incrementalist!” (*audience laughs*)

My friends, we have the most powerful weapon that a political party or movement can have: the truth. It is a weapon that the other parties *do not have*. Truth will beat money, armies, any opposition any day of the week. Unfortunately, some of us sometimes feel we need to dilute, moderate or soften our message to appear respectable or credible. But if we moderate our message, we weaken it;

we are subverting the main weapon in our arsenal. Now why would we want to do that?

I have a good Libertarian friend who ran for state office in Virginia. I saw his campaign statement in the newspaper: reduce taxes and spending, improve education and transportation, and so on. After the election, I called him and said, “I don't understand your strategy. It seems to me that all Republicans and a lot of Democrats would feel very comfortable endorsing your statement.” He said, “Well, the Republican Party ran a weak candidate; I targeted Republican voters and thought I had a chance to win.” And I said, “But why wouldn't you want to *differentiate* yourself from these two parties and take advantage of the opportunity to attack them!” He said, “How?” And

I said: “By saying you want to abolish public schools, abolish all state drug laws, and abolish all state welfare and regulatory agencies! And if you're embarrassed about abolishing all taxation, as some Libertarians are, at

least call for abolishing the state income tax.” He looked at me and said, “I could never win that way!” So I said “Well, you only got about 1% of the vote doing it your way! If you're gonna lose, you might as well go down fighting like a Libertarian!” There's nothing inglorious about defeat — as a native Texan I can tell you that.

Some people in this party are preoccupied with trying to get Democrats and Republicans to shift their votes to us. I think they're missing the real voters we should be targeting: the 52% of Americans who don't vote! I think we could get 10% of that vote easy — that's five million votes. Many of these people don't vote because they think it doesn't matter. And if Libertarians start sounding like Republicans, they're gonna think we're just like the rest of 'em.

What if a Libertarian was elected president and said he was going to downsize the government (*continued on next page*)

Fighting for Freedom

(from previous page)

by 30%? Am I supposed to be *happy* with that? Am I supposed to be *happy* with a Libertarian head of the IRS handling 70% of the taxation that's left? Am I supposed to be *happy* if Libertarians are running the ATF, the DEA, the CIA, the FBI, HUD, Agriculture, Energy, Education and all the other perjurious, corrupt, incompetent government agencies? We need to *take down* these agencies, not downsize them! People must know that we want them to give up the entire socialist welfare state in return for never having to pay any taxes ever again! They must know that our objective is to permanently shut down all non-essential government services! (*audience applauds*) And if those 52% of Americans see that we really are different, you might see a monumental shift toward the Libertarian Party. Those people are our target — and we're not going to get them by moderating our message.

I even see some Libertarians calling for ways to reform the socialist welfare state: reforming public schooling with vouchers, reforming Medicare with IRAs, even saving Social Security! They think no one will vote for us unless we say we're saving Social Security — the crown jewel of the socialist welfare state! Excuse me? I am a Libertarian! Social Security originated with the German socialists. Otto Von Bismark stole the idea from them. In the 1930s, it was a hallmark of the National Socialist Party — the nazis! Where do you think Franklin Roosevelt got the idea for it? Now, why in the world would we want to save such a thing?

Some Libertarians say, "well, a promise has been made." Oh really? Well, *I* never promised anything, I know that! Social Security is just a tax — like the income or gift tax. It's a welfare program, like food stamps or public schooling. And where do we stop? What about Medicare? Do we want a Libertarian plan

to save that corrupt welfare program too, and one to save public schooling? Do we try to save the income tax? And what is the message these plans will be sending to our fellow Americans? That we don't really believe that freedom will work! Because if we believed freedom worked, we'd call for the immediate abolition of these corrupt, incompetent agencies. By calling for safe half-way measures, we're saying we don't really believe in freedom. And how exciting is *that* message?

Those of you who've been in the party a long time know we've gone through some dark days. And yet, through it all, there was a core of people hanging in there, holding the party together, building it. And what motivated them? Was it the idea of downsizing government? I don't think so. It was the idea of advancing human liberty by dismantling, not reforming, the socialist welfare state.

"We have to hit these people hard. They've built a fortress — a nice ratchet that's making them jillions of dollars — and they're protecting it with things like ballot access laws to keep out the competition: us! We've got to take our battering ram — the battering ram of uncompromised truth — and keep pounding away at their gates."

That's what was driving us. That's what got people excited.

Some Libertarians think we should run our campaigns like a croquet game — safe, distinguished and polite. I don't see it that way at all. I think we're in a street fight. Those Democrats and Republicans are coming down the street towards us. We have to take off our gloves and start dukin' it out with them, mix it up with these people. Now, they're bigger than we are, so they're gonna beat us up and knock us down. But I guarantee in any street fight, you can get in a few punches. You can bloody somebody's nose or give 'em a black eye. So the next time they come down the street, they think: "Oh, no! Not those Libertarians again!"

I'll give you an example... A guy called me from the Perot party and asked me to talk at one of their meetings. He said, "I'm also going to have two Democrat and Republican bigwigs there, and I'd like to set a little trap for them — are you interested?" I said: "That's music to my ears!" (*audience laughs*) So he said, "I want you to go first — and instead of just explaining the principles of liberty, would you please tear them to pieces?" So I go there and of course these two guys have no idea what's about to happen. When the time came, I got up before the audience, pointed at the Democrat and Republican officials and said: "These two people right here, and the parties they represent, have brought this country to where we are today: 50% taxation, the regulation of every aspect of your lives, the war on drugs, the war on poverty, the war on liberty — and you

know what, ladies and gentlemen, they're not going to take responsibility for all the harm they've done. You're going to hear them in a few minutes, and I guarantee you they're not going to say they're sorry for what they've done to you and the children of this country!" I went on like that and when I finished, the Republican got up — his hands were shaking. Then the Democrat got up and spent 15 minutes defending Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal! (*audience laughs*)

We've got to take the offensive and hit these people hard. Frankly, you've got to despise them and everything they stand for.

Not long ago, I was sitting at a supper table with Newt Gingrich, a bunch of my Libertarian friends, and some of his friends. Now Newt wouldn't even talk to us — he's too good to talk to us — until he finally turned to me and said, "Would you mind passing the bread?" All my friends suddenly got quiet because they know how much I despise these guys. So I smiled at him and said, "Well, Newt, I've got an important bill coming up in Congress, and before I pass you the bread, I want to know how you're going to vote!" Everybody around me started chuckling and Newt played dumb: "What

Waco Revisited

by Vince Cook

Recently I saw what is, in my opinion, one of the most important and stunning documentaries ever made, "Waco: The Rules of Engagement," produced and directed by William Gazecki. The film's impact can be measured by the effect it had upon the audience with which I saw it: many viewers were so horrified that they walked out — then came back to watch more.

No matter how steeled you are to viewing raw, gruesome images, and no matter how you regard the government's side of the tragic events examined here, this film will put a knot in your stomach and cause you to wonder "How could America have ever come to this?"

The film's images of mass death exist not merely to horrify but to enlighten. Gazecki juxtaposes new evidence of what really happened at Waco with footage of government officials speaking at press conferences and congressional hearings in order to expose their mendacity. This new evidence leaves little doubt that the government and major news media have been lying to us for nearly four years.

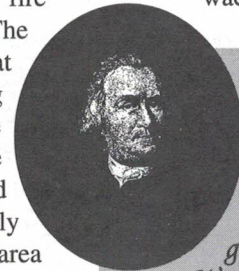
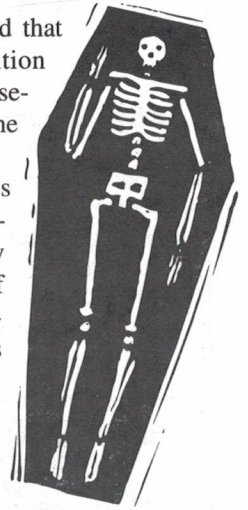
The new evidence is Forward-Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) imaging data collected from an airplane that circled the Branch Davidians' compound. Until now, all of the video the public has been allowed to see provided a front view of the Davidians' dormitory only, and shows what appears to be a simple gas insertion operation and possibly one of the fire ignition points associated with it. The FLIR, however, reveals events that occurred at the rear of the building — including an armored vehicle demolishing the gymnasium (five crushed bodies were later found there) and FBI agents promiscuously firing automatic weapons into the area where most of the Davidians (including the children) were trapped. Government agents can also be seen shooting into the dining room as the conflagration approaches the Davidians' position. The FLIR also confirms that the pyrotechnic grenades found on the scene were fired

by the FBI, and that the fire ignition points were closely associated with the gas insertion.

The FLIR makes clear that the Davidians were deliberately driven to the rear of the building and trapped, where the mass slaughter could proceed unobserved by TV cameras. In contrast to the "plausible denials" from the government, the gripping accounts provided by the surviving Davidians are fully consistent with the mute testimony of the shot, burned, crushed and poisoned bodies, and with the FLIR images.

"60 Minutes" (CBS), "Frontline" (PBS), and the Congressional committee investigating Waco knew about this FLIR imaging but withheld it from the public in their reports. Much of the other ground covered by the film will be familiar to those who have followed the Waco story, but it is presented here in a way that illustrates how America was deceived about this craven act of mass murder by its government.

Although "Waco: The Rules of Engagement" has had a few limited screenings, it is unlikely that any major theater chain or TV stations will dare show it. However, the film will continue to play at independent theaters and be distributed on video eventually. For details, check the film's website at <www.waco93.com/index.htm>. ■



"If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace.

We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen." — Samuel Adams

do you mean?" So I said, "Look, I grew up on the Texas/Mexican border and learned all about politics from Mexico. There, the situation is upfront: you negotiate with the government officials in advance, pay your bribe, and they fulfill their part of the bargain. But here we have to call them 'campaign contributions,' 'honorariums' or things like that, and it's very inefficient because you guys don't always know what you're getting paid for." Well, he fumed! How dare I impugn the integrity of Congress — imagine! (*audience laughs*)

We have to hit these people hard. They've built a fortress — a nice racket that's making them jillions of dollars — and they're protecting it with things like ballot access laws to keep out the competition: us! We've got to take our battering ram — the battering ram of uncompromised truth — and keep pounding away at their gates. Ultimately, we'll break through; then our people will rush inside and create havoc behind enemy lines! And the only way we can do that is to continue delivering the purist message of Liberty. If we don't call for Liberty, if we only call for reform, then who's left? If not us, who will cry for freedom? If we don't do it, the light of Liberty goes out! The responsibility is ours. I firmly believe that it is the destiny of American Libertarians to lead the world out of its socialist dungeon. I think we're going to see a move toward freedom in this country that'll make the fall of the Berlin wall and the collapse of the Soviet empire look like child's play. We Libertarians are leading the charge toward dismantling the socialist welfare state. If we stick to our principles and hit our enemies hard, we'll lead America to the highest peaks of freedom that mankind has ever known.

My friends, it's an honor to be on this side of this fight with you!

* * *

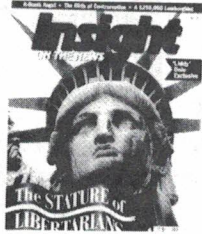
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(continued from page 3)

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

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