

The INDIVIDUALIST

October, 1978 VOL.II; No.1

A VOICE OF REASON IN THE STATIST WILDERNESS

HUBCON '78 MERITS RAVE REVIEWS

The seventh annual national convention of the Libertarian Party was held this past Labor Day weekend in Boston's Copley Plaza Hotel. The event, organized and run by the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, by all standards has to be acclaimed as a huge success. While the registered attendance of nearly 500 fell short of the numbers attending some other recent LP conventions, this was an off-year, "non-business" convention, and so a record turnout was not to be expected.

Of much more significance was the excellent quality of the program; the wide range of speakers and the variety of the workshops, seminars, and "major events" made the affair a rewarding one for just about everyone in attendance. (Rhode Island's "delegation", rated on a proportional basis, was a good one, with over 50% of LPRI members managing to attend one or more sessions of the convention. It is unfortunate that our attendance was not 100%, since those who were not able to make it really missed out on a worthwhile experience.)

We cannot go into a full review of the affair here; the schedule of events, as listed in the July *Individualist*, gave an accurate picture of what went on in the formal program. The manner in which the program was conducted can best be summed up by some of the comments received by the convention sponsors: "Excellent job! I really enjoyed HUBCON," "It was a pleasure to participate." (Thomas Szasz, M.D.); "Your convention was an unadulterated fat-free hit!!"; "I thank and congratulate Massachusetts for the splendid convention." (Chris Hocker, LP National Director.) In its October newsletter, SIL (The Society for Individual Liberty) was especially lavish in its praise of the convention program and of the LP Mass members who conducted the event, calling it "the smoothest LP convention yet." (The SIL people deserve some kudos themselves; their hospitality suite was a mecca for thirsty conventioners, and the

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

Alan Fruzzetti

The first meeting this fall of the LPRI Executive Committee was held on October 4th, at The Gate on the Brown University campus. Members in attendance were: Tony Fiocca, Elizabeth Behrman, Jeff Friedman, and Alan Fruzzetti.

The treasury was reviewed, with receipts being approved. The amount in the treasury has managed to remain approximately constant for some time now.

It was noted that a new group has been initiated, Brown Students for a Libertarian Society, which will have no formal ties with LPRI. Meanwhile, party chairman Tony Fiocca discussed the future of the party here in R.I. Building up a stronger nucleus of students in the state is one of the most important short run goals, he noted. The committee discussed various means of achieving this goal, such as reaching out to more students within the state (particularly at URI and other colleges with large "local" student populations), and plans were made to begin contacting some key people toward this end.

Discussion regarding the nature, content, and staff of this newsletter was held at length, and it was decided that a formal staff is the most desirable method of operation. Anyone interested in working on the staff of *The Individualist* is encouraged to contact Tony Fiocca.

It was brought up that the Forensic Society of Brown is trying to persuade Robert Nozick to come to R.I. in the near future. Details of this event, when it materializes, will appear in these pages.

Perhaps the most interesting action of the meeting was taken when the committee, in an unprecedented move, unanimously endorsed John Galt for all public offices in R.I. in the coming election. (See related article on this page.)

The Executive Committee looks forward to a prosperous year for the LPRI, and encourages your participation.

GALT FOR GOVERNOR

Jeff Friedman

In the absence of actual LP candidates in the upcoming election, the LPRI Executive Committee (composed of Objectivists and non-Objectivists, alike) asks R.I. libertarians to vent their frustration at the extremely limited choices available to them on November 7th in another way. Rather than endorsing a "lesser" evil, not voting at all, or writing in appropriate, but scattered, fictional or living candidates, why don't we pool our efforts and make the write-in watchers, and other gaugers of public discontent, take notice?

John Galt is the hero of Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged*. His name, on the lips of the perpetrators of statism, represented the bankruptcy and hopelessness of their situation. And he finally succeeded in halting the engines of violent oppression. John Galt, we believe, is the perfect shadow-candidate for people whose ideals are so similar to his own.

So, when confronted with a no-win voting proposition, we hope that you (and others you may persuade) will express contempt for the State by writing in "John Galt" for whatever offices you choose. In that way, you will be voting for your principles, as well as making possible a published tabulation of libertarian sentiment in the state. (If we all chose different write-ins, it's unlikely they would add up to figures substantial enough to be published in newspaper write-in tallies.)

But, sweetest of all, perhaps we will confound election officials across the state with the question: "Who is John Galt?"

"POLITICAL PERSUASION" WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN CAMBRIDGE

A two-day workshop on "The Art of Political Persuasion" will be held in Cambridge, Mass. on the weekend of Dec. 2-3. The event will be sponsored by the LP Mass, and will be conducted by Michael Emerling. Cost is \$30.00 per person. For full particulars call 617 864-6497.

FROM THE CHAIR**VOTE FOR JOHN GALT, AGAINST BOND ISSUES**

With Election Day just around the weekend, it would be nice to have something to say about the prospects for Libertarian candidates, to exhort LP'ers to "get out the vote" etc., etc. But, unfortunately, there is no need for campaign rah-rah for the LPRI this year, since we have no candidates on the ballot to root for. The November 7th outlook seems to be really glum for libertarian voters in this state; certainly there is nothing for us to choose from among the candidates for major office offered us by the establishment parties. As usual, the Reprocrats are busy mee-tooing each other with their gaudy promises of how much of Big Brother's largesse they will personally dispense to the serfs of Rhode Island. True, this year there is a lot of lip service being paid to the idea of lower taxes and less government spending, a couple of the Republican candidates, especially, are making noises like fiscal conservatives and limited-government advocates. But, can a thinking voter actually believe any of this post-Proposition 13 band-waggoning? We remember that right after the California vote, even Eddie Beard came on sounding like a hard-hitting tax rebel. Of course, no libertarian is going to swallow this kind of rhetorical garbage from any of these johnny-come-lately "anti-tax" candidates. On other issues of interest to libertarians, the major party candidates are complete turn-offs; there is not even the semblance of a pro-civil liberties stance among the lot of them.

So, what can we do this election day besides stay at home and watch the boob-tube pundits making like experts with their returns and projections and vote analyses - as if it actually makes any difference which of the major party candidates get elected? Well, one thing we can do is take Jeff Friedman's suggestion (see Page 1) and cast a write-in vote for John Galt wherever appropriate (especially for the major state and national offices.) Until such time as we get a "None of the Above" option on the R.I. ballot, this is as good a way as any for libertarians to show their disgust with the major parties. It is certainly better than abstaining from voting, which merely lumps us in with the (now) majority of Ameri-

cans who do not even bother to show up at the polls on election day. In the absence of any candidates of our own, a write-in for John Galt is the only principled vote we can cast this election.

If the chance to vote for John Galt is not incentive enough to get us to the polls November 7th, there is one other very good reason: that is to get out and vote against all bond issues and spending proposals on the ballot. I don't think there's any need to go into details on why we should reject these referenda. As libertarians, I think we can categorically say that all bond issues are bad; that all spending proposals are undesirable. And, in voting against bond issues, for once we actually have a chance to be on the winning side (and to help make that side a winner). In recent years, more and more voters have been opting to reject these spending proposals and in many instances (especially in the case of school bonds) have succeeded in defeating them. And often, even when the issues were approved, the vote has been close. So, it is definitely worth our while to get out and register our vote against more government spending and taxing.

And, while we're there, let's not forget to vote for John Galt.

AAF

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JOIN THE NATIONAL LP!

The LPRI is proceeding with the technicalities of affiliating with the National LP. When we do, we will become eligible to send delegates to the 1979 presidential nominating convention in Los Angeles next September. Each affiliated party is automatically allocated two delegates; if we are to have more delegates, we must have more National LP members from this state. If national membership in 1979 is 5,000, we must have ten more members from R.I. in order to have one additional delegate; if national membership is 10,000, R.I. must have twelve more members to gain an additional delegate. In fact, at present this state is seven members below its proportional share of national memberships.

Of course, joining the national LP helps to support National's activities. It also includes a subscription to LP News. And, if you join National

PLAGIARISMS - Items of interest stolen from other libertarian and secular journals.

□ From a new libertarian publication, Frontlines, comes a negative view of Proposition 13 as expressed by Robert LeFevre. In "An Open Letter to Howard Jarvis and Paul Gann", Mr. LeFevre predicts that passage of the tax-limiting amendment will result in California real estate becoming a more attractive investment, will draw capital away from other investments (such as insurance, bonds, stocks, etc.), and will cause the price of real estate to go up. This will, in turn, result in higher taxes being paid by property owners (since taxes are assessed as a proportion of appraised value). "Thus, real estate taxes, while rolled back temporarily, will begin to climb again...those who would like to see real estate taxes dropped but who voted for Prop. 13 as the lesser of the evils have now endorsed real estate taxation." LeFevre foresees another adverse effect of voting for this kind of tax rollback: "People, having achieved something like a period of grace, will tend to lapse into lassitude and apathy...they will love their government more, not less. And from this, government will gather new momentum and move like a juggernaut against them in the future."

(Ed. note: In printing this, we do not necessarily endorse LeFevre's views; we do, however, believe they are worth consideration and debate.)

□ Another dim view of the after-effects of Proposition 13 is taken by none less than one of the authors of the amendment. In an interview in Libertarian Review, Paul Gann has this to say about the way the bill has been implemented: "It's been terrible. In fact, most...bureaucrats, almost all of them, have in some way circumvented Proposition 13."

(Cont. Page 3)

through your state party (by filling out the form on page 3), your membership costs you only \$8.00 instead of the usual \$10.00.

So, do it now, while it will help to build our Convention delegation.

J.F.

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(Plagiarisms, cont. from p.2)

They no longer call it taxes, they call it fees... Some cities have increased their sewer fees by 500% and the cost of building permits by 1000%."

□ Reason magazine's Bill Birmingham quotes columnist Mike Royko: "It is now estimated that the Federal government does more in one week to slow down our national production than all of the German saboteurs did during World War II."

□ Also from Reason (October, 1978) comes this item about a court case in which a man needed a bone marrow transplant and attempted to get a judgement compelling his cousin to be the donor. The cousin refused because of health reasons of his own. Quoting the judge in the case: "In our law, there's no duty to rescue someone or to save someone's life. Our society is based on the right and sanctity of the individual." (Score one for our side. But, just the fact that the case was even considered by the court shows how bad things have become in this so-called "free" society of ours.)

(CREDITS:

Libertarian Review; 1620 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif.

Reason; Box 40105, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Frontlines; Box 40105, Santa Barbara, Calif.)

Mike Royko; syndicated columnist, Chicago Sun-Times.)

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(Hubcon, from P.1)

Sunday night cocktail bash had to rate as one of the social highlights of the weekend.)

And, finally, the convention seems to have been a financial success for both the national party and the Mass. sponsors. The affair netted the host party several thousand dollars, which will be used for the traditional purposes of publication of the convention proceedings, local campaign finances, party building, and petitioning expenses. Not so traditionally, the Massachusetts people pleasantly shocked national LP officials by contributing ten percent of the net proceeds to National Headquarters. As Chris Hocker stated in his thank-you letter, "the gesture you made in tithing National was truly...truly... something. I couldn't believe it. Still can't." (In addition to the donation from the convention sponsors, the national party was the beneficiary of close to \$12,000 in pledges turned in after the Sunday night banquet. This sum was just a little less than that raised at last year's convention in San Francisco - an event attended by over twice as many people.)

When we consider the fact that there was some initial reluctance on the part of National to hold a convention in Massachusetts, and that when the decision was finally made the host party had to organize things on relatively short notice, our Bay State neighbors deserve much credit and praise for the tremendous job they did on this excellent libertarian affair.

"ATLAS" TO BE TV'D

In another article in this issue, it was stated that after the November election, Rhode Islanders might be asking the historic question, "Who is John Galt?". Now it appears they may have that question answered for them - and, on their favorite "educational" medium, national TV. In its September issue, Reason magazine announced the news that Ayn Rand's monumental novel Atlas Shrugged is to be made into an 8 hour TV movie, to be produced by Michael Jaffe. Jaffe is currently in the final stages of negotiation with Ms Rand, and estimates a "98%" chance of a successful conclusion to the negotiations.

The filming and public showing of Atlas Shrugged can only be good news to libertarians and Objectivists, provided, of course, that Rand exercises close supervision over the final product and ensures that there is no watering down of the powerful anti-statist message contained in the novel.

Unfortunately, the good news is somewhat tempered by the fact that the project will not be completed for another two years. By that time, it is possible that the fictional events depicted in the book will have become reality, and we will be viewing the film from our living rooms in Atlantis.

A.A.F.

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY of RHODE ISLAND, Box 657, Bristol, R.I. 02809

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

I wish to join LPRI. Dues \$2.00 enclosed. _____

I wish to subscribe to the newsletter only. \$6.00 enclosed. _____

I am enclosing a contribution of _____.

I cannot at this time contribute financially but want to work for LPRI.

I have not made up my mind. Keep me on the mailing list a while longer.

Membership applicants only please sign: "I endorse the statement of

principles of the Libertarian Party. I do not believe in the initiation

of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signed _____

I wish to join the National LP through the state party. Enclosed is

my check for \$8.00 payable to LPRI. (Note; you must be a member

of LPRI to take advantage of this special membership rate.)

L P R I
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