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Colorado Liberty

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2,000 Libertarians to Convene in Los Angeles

Over 2,000 members of the Libertarian Party, LP supporters, and interested observers will gather at the luxurious Bona-Venture Hotel in Los Angeles September 6th through 9th for the 1979 Libertarian National Nominating Convention. Some estimates of attendance run as high as 3,000. It will be the largest and most spectacular gathering of libertarians ever to take place.

The main business of the convention will be the selection of the LP's 1980 Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates. The 600 credentialed delegates will choose between New England businessman Bill Hunscher and California attorney Ed Clark for the Presidential nomination. As we go to press, a movement has also emerged in Texas to draft Allen Vogel of Houston for the nomination. All three have experience as candidates. Last year, Clark ran for Governor of California and Hunscher ran for the New Hampshire legislature; in successive elections, Vogel has run for Mayor of Houston and Governor of Texas. All three made impressive gains over past LP vote totals.

Other Party business will be conducted at the convention. The Platform Committee and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will begin meeting two days before the



Delegates in session at the 1977 LP National Convention, San Francisco

and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will begin meeting two days before the formal opening of the convention. Their recommendations will be sent to the delegates for their approval or modification. The LP is the only major political party which gives its convention delegates any significant say in what goes into its platform; the platform debates promise to be exciting and controversial, with many amendments proposed from the floor. Serious changes to the Constitution and By-Laws are also expected to be considered.

Continuing its basic purpose of educating the public, the LP will also put on dozens of speeches, panel discussions and workshops on various topics of current interest. The draft, gun control, taxes and public schools will get a principled roasting. Speakers from the right, the left, and the libertarian movement will also speak to convention attendees. John Lofton, Alan Baron, Eugene McCarthy, Morton Halperin, psychologist Nathaniel Branden, Alaska legislator Dick Randolph and 1976 LP Presidential candidate Roger MacBride are among those scheduled. In all, fifteen panels and workshops and over two dozen speakers will be presented during the four-day convention.

Numerous social events, from cocktail parties to a movie studio tour, will also be on the program.

The theme of this year's convention is "Toward a Three-Party System," reflecting the LP's emergence as a major force in national politics. After the 1976 and 1978 elections, the LP is firmly established as the nation's third largest political party. Permanent ballot status has already been achieved in six states. One of the goals of this convention will be to attract the national news media attention the party will need to have a significant impact on the 1980 elections. Media coverage was a major factor in the selection of Los Angeles as the site of the convention. It is also one of the reasons why, ever since its beginning, the Libertarian Party has nominated its Presidential ticket more than a year in advance of the election. A long and vigorous campaign to take the LP's message to the voters will follow the conclusion of this year's convention.

Convention flyers and registration forms are available from the Colorado LP and the staff of COLORADO LIBERTY. One need not be a Party member to register for some or all of the convention events, and interested observers are invited and encouraged to inquire.

Delegates in session at the 1977 LP National Convention, San Francisco

CLP Members To Play Active Roles at Convention

The activism and achievements of the Colorado Libertarian Party will be reflected in its representation at the upcoming national LP convention in Los Angeles.

Colorado will have 17 voting delegates; 15 of these reflect the CLP's size and 1976 Presidential vote total, while M.L. Hanson and John Mason have automatic delegates status as members of the LP National Committee. The Colorado delegation will be the tenth largest in attendance.

Individual delegates from Colorado will play prominent roles at the convention.

National Vice Chair M.L. HANSON will preside over convention proceedings when National Chair Dave Bergland is not wielding the gavel.

Party Founder DAVE NOLAN will serve as Chair of the Colorado delegation, and will also be a convention speaker and panel moderator. After two years away from the National Committee, Dave plans to seek an at-large seat for the 1979-81 term, and is also considered a safe bet for election.

State Chair JOHN MASON, who has served as one of Region Three's two representatives on the NatComm these last two years, plans to seek re-election. Region Three includes Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico as well as Colorado.

COLORADO LIBERTY columnist L. NEIL SMITH will be serving on the 20-member national Platform Committee. Neil was on this committee two years ago, and

was selected by the NatComm for another stint; he will also be actively involved in the presentation of the Prometheus Award.

PATRICK L. LILLY, editor of the COLORADO LIBERTY, has been designated First Alternate for the Platform Committee. This means that if any of the 20 committee members is unable to participate, Patrick will take his or her place.

SALLY MASON has been chosen to serve on the 10-member Constitution, By-Laws & Rules Committee. And PATRICIA DONOHUE will be one of the five members of the Credentials Committee. Although less visible than the Platform Committee, these two committees can play a key role in determining the future course of the Libertarian Party.

Food Sales Tax Repealed

As part of its tax-cut package, the Colorado legislature has removed the three percent sales tax on food.

The bill containing the tax repeal was first vetoed by Governor Richard Lamm, but was redrafted in a late extra session of the legislature and then signed by Lamm. The change will be most helpful to lower income families who must spend a lot of their income on food. It will cut most people's grocery bill by just under three percent, but will have no effect on restaurant tabs. Only unprepared food and foodstuffs currently come under the three percent tax; other items are also subject to local sales taxes.

Repeal of the food sales tax was the subject of an unsuccessful referendum drive in Colorado three years ago. A state-wide petition drive put the proposal on the ballot, but it contained a provision requiring the legislature to replace the "lost" revenue with other taxes. This provision was probably a primary cause of the measure's defeat, and was certainly a reason why many libertarians voted against it. The replacement taxes would almost certainly have been more indirect and less visible than the sales tax.

The repeal comes at the same time that Arizona Libertarians are starting a petition drive to remove ALL taxes on all aspects of food production and distribution, an idea first put forth by Ed Clark in his California gubernatorial campaign last year. It is estimated that this would reduce grocery bills by 25 percent.

De-taxing the entire food chain will also figure prominently in Clark's presidential campaign. The proposal is becoming increasingly popular among libertarians, but no plans for a drive in Colorado similar to that in Arizona are afoot.

Removal of the food sales tax will not take effect until the end of the year. Other provisions of the tax-cut bill will affect personal income taxes (moderate cuts) and gift and inheritance taxes (substantial cuts). Unfortunately, many of the cuts are only temporary, with tax rates reverting to their previous levels after a few years unless the legislature passes another tax-cut bill. This was a major point of contention between Lamm and the Republican legislative leadership, and one reason for the initial veto of the bill.

End to Postal Monopoly?

The U.S. Postal Service, under increasing pressure because of its slow and erratic service, has decided to allow limited exceptions to its legal monopoly on letter mail. New rules proposed in July would allow firms to deliver their own mail through private carriers if the rate charged were twice as high as postage or three dollars per letter, whichever is more, if they are delivered on a schedule shorter than the Postal Services as a necessary condition of retaining their value. The burden would be on the mailer to show that private mail met these standards.

The public will have only until the 10th of August to comment on the proposed rule changes, which can then be adopted at the discretion of the Postmaster General. Those interested should write to: Consumer Affairs Office, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C. 20561.

Possible drawbacks to the new rules could be more red tape for mailers seeking to take advantage of the exceptions, and weakening of the drive to completely repeal the Private Express Statute which grants the USPS's monopoly.

Children's Rights: The Coming Storm

by Patrick L. Lilly

Not many people are ready to admit it yet, but a major battle, or, rather, a whole series of major battles, is looming in this country over the rights of children. Even though the Libertarian Party has spoken out with more radicalism and forthrightness than any other group on this subject, the practical and philosophical controversies over the legal rights of the young rage unabated within the LP as well as in the nation at large.

It seems inescapable that children will be the last major sub-group of the population to be placed on a legal par with everyone else, if indeed they ever are. But the issue has been raised. People are now talking about "children's rights," even if the definition of that term remains rather fuzzy in the popular lexicon. As an example, on the decidedly contra side, consider the recent syndicated column by Max Rafferty. In it, Rafferty bemoaned the appointment by President Carter of Patricia Wald to the District of Columbia Circuit Court.

Rafferty attacks Ms. Wald as being against "the American family" on the basis of several quotes in support of the legal rights of children. Only one of those quotes, dealing with community runaway shelters, involves State intervention of any kind; the rest deal with the child's right to choose and to be informed. In the name of "the American family," Dr. Rafferty excoriates both Wald and Carter and inveighs against letting even "a mere fraction of her beliefs be translated into law."

The fact is that, at least on paper, a lot of Ms. Wald's beliefs have already been trans-

lated into law, although their status is uncertain and tenuous. The legal doctrine which says that the interests of the children are to be the paramount consideration in custody proceedings, for example, is, in some jurisdictions, being interpreted rationally enough that some agencies and courts are actually getting around to asking the children what THEY want before making a decision. In others, of course, it is the excuse for rampant paternalism which provides a convenient justification for ignoring the interests of all other parties to the dispute. And the instances where it is applied to decisions about, for example, commitment to a mental institution or inclusion in a "rehabilitation" program are few and far between.

One area where young people have made almost continuous progress for a long time is property and contract rights. Most states now accord to children, at least under some circumstances, the basic right to own property and to carry out most of the same financial transactions as adults. The PRINCIPLE of the equal economic freedom for "minors," of course, has yet to be endorsed, but a kind of DE FACTO deregulation of the economics of being a child has been taking place for years.

The controversy is present and alive within the libertarian movement as well. No one who attended the 1977 LP national convention could doubt that. The split amongst the delegates over the toned-down children's rights plank led to it being adopted by only the slimmest of margins; a recount was

necessary. And the existing plank WAS toned down. It was introduced at the last minute after it became obvious that the highly detailed, radical plank first introduced stood no chance of passing. The Colorado LP platform contains a plank somewhere in between the two, adopted in 1978, and opposition to it was just as vehement, if unsuccessful.

So why is a storm brewing? Because the problems faced by children form a microcosm of all the political problems faced by adults, and more and more children are coming to realize this. They are beginning to demand the same rights that blacks, women, gays, and even old adults have won before them. Because as all the other rights movements begin to reach their fruition, paternalism in general is coming under increasingly severe attack. Because too many people, and not just libertarians, are beginning to realize that there are real and persistent problems with maintaining an open society while a group defined solely by age is treated as a separate class.

The drive for private education is bringing a lot of this to a head. It is hard to deal, even philosophically, with the coercion imposed on parents by the state-run school system without also dealing with the far more direct and total coercion imposed by that same system on the student. The government school monopoly may violate the parents' and taxpayers' freedom of choice about how to spend their money, but it simultaneously violates the child's freedom of choice about

HOW HE WILL SPEND HIS LIFE. More importantly, once both parents and child are freed from this system, nothing much has really changed FOR THE CHILD if the parent is allowed to substitute his coercion for that of the State. Thus, to oppose compulsory attendance laws on grounds of principle brings one instantly into the arena of children's rights. This may come as an unpleasant surprise to many who prefer to think that the issue is State vs. parents rather than State vs. children.

The drive for freedom from the government-controlled medical bureaucracy, too, will involve an exploration of the rights of children, particularly as abortion and other sex-related medical issues continue to be socially and politically important. Already, people here and there with no axe to grind for the AMA are OPPOSING a freer market for medical services in order to prevent children from exercising their options in such a market.

Another controversy is sure to erupt over this issue when the LP national platform is revised in Los Angeles this September. It may or may not be a re-run of the '77 scenario, but radical children's rights advocates are certain to introduce a proposal to expand on the existing plank. It may well prove a thorny issue that the Presidential contenders will have to deal with. Opinion varies as to the value to the LP of a stronger commitment to children's rights, but the issue must be faced one way or another, and soon. The storm will break before long.

The Hazards of Orthodoxy

by David F. Nolan

Of late, much brouhaha over NATIONAL REVIEW's attack on the Cato flank of the libertarian movement. Not surprising; NR has a long-standing policy of "exposing" anyone they perceive as a threat to their hegemony. They did it to Ayn Rand, and to the Birchers, and to the Liberty Amendment Committee. And now they're doing it to us.

After all, if you're really serious about your liberty . . . if you really want to cut the monster government back to size . . . why,

And it is true that Murray's column in LIBERTARIAN REVIEW . . . excuse me, THE LIBERTARIAN REVIEW as it was renamed last year . . . is labeled THE PLUMB LINE.

And it's also true that a lot of material that comes out of Montgomery Street refers to Murray as "Mr. Libertarian."

But how anyone would get the impression that one man could be regarded as a spokesman for the movement . . . why, it just totally

We're a very diverse coalition. We're drawing in people from a lot of areas; our common denominator is simply a basic belief in liberty and a desire to reduce coercive intervention in our lives. Let's accept that, and try not to impose any further unanimity on ourselves and each other.

If there is anything we should have learned

from the Rand experience, it is that we do not need a Guru. We can think for ourselves.

And that very capability gives us a responsibility.

A bumpersticker put out by (I believe) the Texas LP puts it very well: QUESTION AUTHORITY. Always.

your liberty . . . if you really want to cut the monster government back to size . . . why, then you're a radical. And if you get too big, and people start taking you serious, then . . . maybe . . . they'll start taking NATIONAL REVIEW a bit less seriously . . . and . . . Omigod!

The brunt of the attack was aimed at Murray Rothbard, Cato, and INQUIRY magazine. And it's been interesting to watch the results.

Our friends in California have claimed that they were quoted out of context, and that the NR articles covered a very biased selection from their broad range of efforts. Which is absolutely true. The NR writeups were skewed as Hell.

The Cato folk have also been protesting that it was unfair of NR to focus in so exclusively on Murray Rothbard.

Now, that one's debatable.

It's kind of amusing that some of the loudest wails have been coming from the self-same people who have done their best to promote Rothbard as the Fount of Orthodoxy.

As NATIONAL REVIEW pointed out, the cover blurb on the new paperback edition of FOR A NEW LIBERTY does modestly describe it as The Libertarian Manifesto.

that one man could be regarded as a spokesman for the movement . . . why, it just totally escapes me.

The hard truth is that there has been a concerted attempt by some people to "Rothbardize" the movement. To make Murray some kind of Final Authority, a sort of Libertarian Pope.

And I think that's bad.

I like Murray personally, and have great respect for his keen intellect (even when I disagree with him) . . . but his opinions do not constitute a "plumb line." They're simply Murray's opinions. And in many cases, they are not shared by most other libertarians.

Likewise, while I cheerfully acknowledge Murray's many great contributions to the movement, I will submit that he has no stronger claim to the title "Mr. Libertarian" than John Hospers or Roger MacBride or any of several other people.

I bring all of this up not to pick on Murray, but to pick on the whole idea of having our movement so heavily identified with any one individual and his or her particular variant of libertarianism.

For another, it bugs a lot of people within the movement.

Calendar & Announcements

- AUGUST 8: CLPCP—Cocktail Party, cash bar, 1624 Market Street, Suite 400, Denver (Above Alexander Graham's) 7:00 p.m.—get acquainted with fellow Libertarians.
 - AUGUST 22: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 1175 Vine St., #305, Denver.
 - SEPTEMBER 6-9: 1979 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention, Los Angeles, California (Contact CLP).
 - SEPTEMBER 12: CLPCP—Cocktail Party, cash bar, 1624 Market Street, Suite 400, 7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Talk with delegates back from the largest gathering of Libertarians ever.
 - SEPTEMBER 15: Ad closing and copy deadline for October/November issue of COLORADO LIBERTY. Contact Pat Lilly in Colo. Spgs. (599-7593).
 - SEPTEMBER 26: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 1818 S. Jasmine St., Denver.
 - OCTOBER 10: CLPCP—Cocktail Party, cash bar, 1624 Market Street, Suite 400, 7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Help kick off the 1980 ballot drive.
 - OCTOBER 10: Ballot drive begins.
 - OCTOBER 24: CLP Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 2225 Buchtel Blvd., #711, Denver.
- *****Karl Hess's speech before the 1979 CLP Convention is available on cassette tape for \$6.00. Contact John Mason, 733-5916.
- *****Any person interested in sharing office space, secretarial services, telephone answering, etc. with other libertarians—contact John Mason, 733-5916.

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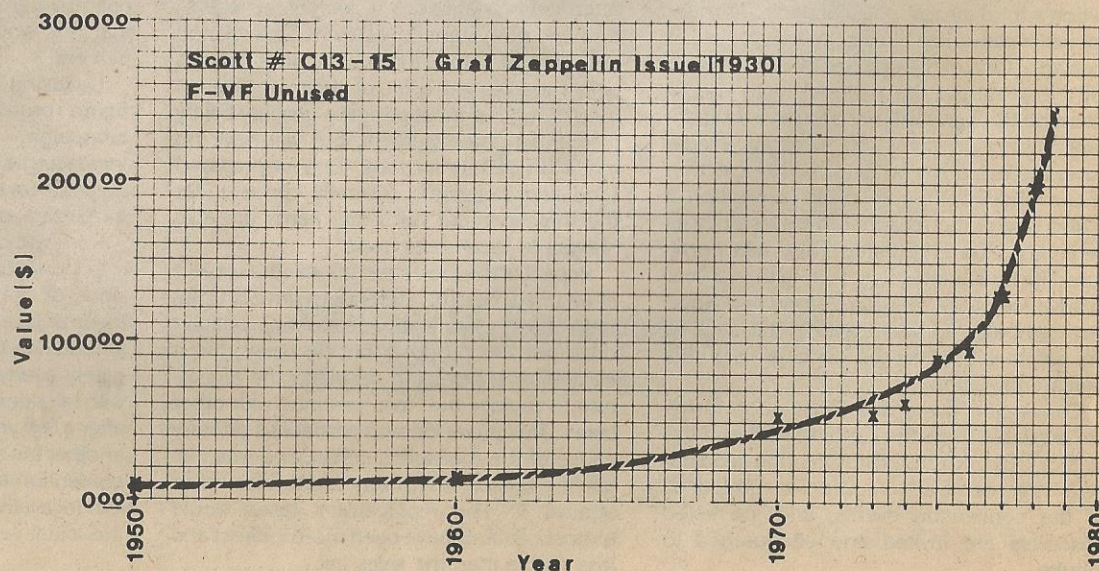


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Against the Grain Rational Defense

by L. Neil Smith

Libertarianism is a philosophy uniquely capable of unravelling problems otherwise insoluble to conventional "wisdom."

Take busing and integration, a controversy seemingly beyond settlement only because the very concept of "public property" is a hoax. Property must belong to some identifiable individual or group. It can't belong to everyone; it can't belong to no one. Ignoring this fundamental law of nature and human psychology INEVITABLY results in bitter conflict. Convert the schools into genuine private property, run whatever way the owners see fit, and let consumers decide for themselves which ones they'll patronize.

Problem solved.

Our unique philosophical acuity begins to break down, however, whenever we attempt to pick and choose among the "solutions" offered by others, rather than generating answers for ourselves. A case in point, and the subject of this month's tirade, is national defense.

The early "official" LP position on defense might be termed "quasi-conservative"—check out Hospers' LIBERTARIANISM, or have a chat with backers of the unsuccessful Florida defense plank at 1977's National Convention in San Francisco. However, such elements in the platform were quickly purged and replaced with quasi-LIBERAL ones: Russia is a paper tiger; the U.S. is the real villain, etc., AD NAUSEAM.

In any fight between quasi-right and quasi-left, I'm neutral. If I'm quasi-anything, it's pissed-off—this whole hassle is stupid and unnecessary. We need a third, uniquely Libertarian handling of this issue, and that's what I intend taking with me to Los Angeles in September.

When the first Libertarian President places her hand on a tattered copy of ATLAS SHRUGGED and takes the oath, the U.S. will be through policing the globe. National defense will boil down to just two essentials: tactics and strategy.

Tactical defense (what others mean by "conventional warfare") has a long history and well-established principles. First, there's no technological substitute, and never will be for a human being with mud on one end

ters of THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS. Everything we've been forced to pay for over the last three decades is so much expensive trash that wouldn't stand a chance against a freightcar-sized moonrock coming in at terminal velocity. ICBM's, B-52's, and Cruise missiles alike will be so much fish in a barrel against manned orbital platforms armed with high-powered lasers and particle beam projectors.

Conclusion? Go ahead with LP economic programs, detaxing and deregulating until there's enough capital loose to build those orbital platforms. Westinghouse and GM will be far more anxious to defend their assets (and their customers) than Washington ever was.

In the meantime (and it'd better be a SHORT meantime, as the Russians are building platforms, too), we can rely on our missile-carrying subs, and STOP construction of insanities like the MX trench missile, which is obsolete even while it's being designed.

Individualism, deregulation, decentralization, private enterprise. Those are uniquely Libertarian values. Added together, they spell out a unique (and virtually tax-free) program for national defense—one we should have been pushing from the beginning.

Problem solved.

Today's Logic The Boat People

by Jim Phelps

Millions of Vietnamese and Cambodians have been slaughtered.

Probably less than one-tenth as many have escaped.

Some have made it to other lands. Others have just made it to boats.

And now, tens of thousands of those who made it to other lands may have to get back in their boats.

Malaysia announced recently it was expelling 76,000 refugees. Forcing them back onto their boats. Warning them they will not be rescued if they sink their boats. And warning them they will be shot if they attempt to land.

How miserable those boats must be.

Not enough food, water or space.

And not enough hope.

Where can they go? They can't live forever on the boats. No country is welcoming them.

They are truly men (and women and children) without a country.

Once America was open to all the "homeless, tempest tossed."

Whereas the communists build walls and barbed wire fences to keep their people in, we build fences to keep other people out.

Yet tens of thousands of jobs are going begging. While tens of thousands of welfare people refuse to work.

The Vietnamese, Cambodians and also the Mexican "wetbacks" would love to fill those jobs. And at half the "minimum wage."

Don't give them welfare.

Just give them the right to work at whatever wages an employer is willing to pay.

Give them the right to be free. The right to peace. And the right to live.

They will take "unwanted" jobs.

They will use the money they earn to buy goods and services. And this will make more "wanted" jobs for the rest of us.

An "unwanted" job at half the minimum wage would provide many of these people with undreamed of luxury. Even though, by our standards, it would be squalid, abject poverty.

But these are dreams.

We have lost too many freedoms.

We can't hire people at what they are worth. And they can't accept work at less than the minimum wage.

So, if I were one of the boat people, I would say: "Give us guns and some bullets. Send us back home. We will infiltrate our country, live as guerrillas, and try to win some freedom back for ourselves and our people."

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THE 1979 LIBERTARIAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION

Make plans now to attend the largest Libertarian gathering in history! You don't have to be a delegate to enjoy over 20 featured speakers, Liberty Night at Disneyland, a gala

the groundwork for the 1980 campaign year—a year that promises to go down in history as the one in which the Libertarian ideals of peace, tolerance and liberty once again become the

**"TOWARD A
THREE PARTY
SYSTEM"**

and well-established principles. First, there is no technological substitute, and never will be, for a human being with mud on one end and a rifle (or something like it) at the other. Second, an "irregular," defending his own territory is worth ten professional soliders.

Vietnam taught us that large capital investments in conventional warfare are now, officially, STUPID. When one ragtag guerilla with a \$3 rocket can take out a \$3,000,000 tank, when a plywood PT boat with a \$2,000 missile can eradicate a \$20,000,000 cruiser, it's time to stop tanking and cruising.

Conclusion: decentralize and "irregularize" U.S. combat forces. Reduce the standing army by 99%. Denationalize the militia and arm them (at a tiny fraction of current Pentagon budgets) with modern small-arms. Repeal all gun control laws—the militia is anyone who wants to be in it, trained by the tiny professional cadre we retain for that purpose. Destroy all registries and records of weapons.

Oh yes—dissolve the government in time of war, so that no one has the authority to surrender. Any invader will have to take the country house by house. This alone—a professional soldier's nightmare—will guarantee that no aggressor will ever want to tangle with us.

Strategic defenses? First rule: nuclear weapons are obsolete and have been so since July 19, 1969. Why? Read the closing chap-

featured speakers, Liberty Night at Disneyland, a gala banquet and much, much more! Thousands of libertarians will be meeting at the magnificent Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel September 6-9, 1979, to lay

ideals of peace, tolerance and liberty once again become the focus for political debate in America.

SYSTEM™

SEPTEMBER 6-9, 1979

Registration information and complete details on the convention will be available in May. For information about state LP conventions or group travel arrangements to the national convention, write to:
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Why I'm For Ed Clark

by David F. Nolan

I've known Ed since the first LP Convention in 1972. I've worked closely with him since then. And I think it would be fair to say that his record of commitment to the Libertarian cause speaks for itself.

Ed has played a major role in transforming the Libertarian party from a tiny fledgling organization into a seriously-regarded alternative to the stale politics of statism.

In part, this is simply because he's put in more time and effort than most people would even dream of. And in part, it's because Ed has a unique talent for bringing people together—for bridging gaps, and resolving conflicts.

Nowhere was this evident more than on the two occasions when Ed chaired the National Platform Committee. During those long, grueling sessions, when disputes raged and tempers flared, it was Ed Clark who kept things on track, restored peace, and brought about a Libertarian consensus.

For these reasons, there is probably nobody who is more universally respected within the Libertarian party than Ed Clark.

But that's not the main reason why I'm supporting Ed in his bid for the Presidential nomination.

The main problem any new political party faces in this country is establishing credibility. Credibility with the voters, and with the mass media that most voters rely on for information.

You know about Ed's campaign for Governor of California in 1978, his 377,960 votes, and how his campaign brought the Libertarian party into real prominence in that state.

What you may NOT know, though, is the precise, specific point at which Ed thrust

Libertarian principles into the mainstream of political debate.

It happened in Sacramento, the state capital, at a news conference Ed called after he had qualified for the California ballot.

Ed read his opening statement—a good statement, outlining Libertarian solutions to specific issues. He then called for questions from the news media.

The questions came. Hard questions. Tough questions. Complicated questions. Questions designed specifically to trip up and confuse an idealistic third party candidate.

But Ed would not be tripped up. He fielded each question with depth and understanding and total honesty.

The news media were impressed. As one reporter wrote in his column soon after, "The reporters who are used to hearing carefully crafted lies were plainly delighted that a politician was willing to stand before them and give straight answers to straight questions."

The result: Ed Clark established his—and our—credibility with the news media for the balance of the campaign. As another reporter put it, "Ed Clark is a soft-spoken man of conviction with ideas that criss-cross Republican-Democratic lines and approach the public mood more directly than anything else in generations."

THAT'S what it took for Ed to make his impressive showing in California last year.

THAT'S what it took to create credibility for our party and for our candidate.

THAT'S what it will take in 1980 to bring us into major party prominence on a nationwide basis.

And THAT'S why I support Ed Clark for President.

Vice-Versa

by M.L. Hanson

This column is about communication, two-way communication. Although it is very important to communicate our ideas outside of Libertarian circles, we need to give each other information. You probably think we

tion interfacing with the State organizations. If we do not share certain areas of information with each other, our growing pains will increase and our growth and operations will be hampered.

Why I'm For Bill Hunscher

by L. Neil Smith

When the roll is called out yonder (in Los Angeles this September), I'll be voting for Bill Hunscher, and listing the reasons for my vote seems mostly a matter of eliminating things I don't have room to say here.

I'm a gunsmith and personal defense consultant. It's hard NOT to like a man who picked up and moved from one state to another, as Bill did, simply because he couldn't stomach a newly-passed gun control law.

As a science fiction author, chairman and founder of the Prometheus Committee, I find Bill's almost Utopian optimism impossible to resist. He understands the desperate necessity of carrying Libertarian promises of hope and a bright new future to the American public—promises we're uniquely qualified to keep—promises I've tried to make myself, in speeches, in my forthcoming novel *THE PROBABILITY BROACH*, simply because I despaired of ever convincing our national "leadership" that the LP should be the one to make them.

As an ardent decentralist, and (I flatter myself), one of the LP's foremost "space cadets," I believe a Hunscher candidacy would be far healthier for the party, opening new opportunities for new people and new

ideas in a way that hasn't been done since the party first began. I'm tired of watching chances slip through our fingers because this isn't an election year or because National Headquarters isn't interested today, thank you.

Bill isn't that type at all. He's a determined, energetic, self-made man who doesn't believe that a good excuse is the same thing as a mission accomplished. You can't slough off when you work for yourself, and, as another self-employed and self-motivated individual, I can appreciate and value Bill's accomplishments and realize what they mean for the future of the LP.

Bill understands and appreciates technology, and knows that such an understanding and appreciation can be the key factor to future LP victories. Best of all, for my money (and my vote), Bill owes nothing to the Cato Institute, has no connection with it, and, judging by the things I've heard him say, stands no chance of ever doing so in the future. Nominating this man for the Libertarian Party's candidate for President of the United States will not only send a message to Washington, it will send one to 1700 Montgomery Street that not even the thickest-skinned pseudo-anarchist will be able to overlook.

Regional Report by John Mason

Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah comprise what must be one of the most active regions in the LP. In the elections last fall, for instance, Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada were responsible for 27% of the votes cast for the LP in the entire country. Region III represents 16% of the national membership and continues to grow even in non-election months.

Nevada has long been one of the most active state parties in the LP. Under former Chair Jim Libertarian Burns, the party grew dramatically and its 1976 and 1978 campaign results were impressive. Current State Chair, Dr. John Grayson, the LP candidate for Governor in 1978, recently finished second in a six-way race for Mayor of Las Vegas. The election was characterized by a very low voter

percentage of the population, but ALP Chair Fred Esser believes the exposure will be well worth the effort.

The Utah party in 1976 ran a number of state and local campaigns, with Steve Trotter's campaign for U.S. Senate the focus. Recently, after two years of re-grouping, the Utah LP has begun gearing up for 1980, under Steve Trotter's leadership. Trotter was recently elected State Chair when George Chapman stepped down after an incredible seven years as the party leader. Utah has recently begun publishing their newsletter in a new professional tabloid format and if 1976 is any indication, they will be among the more active states in 1980, as they already have ballot status.

New Mexico and Wyoming have not made

important to communicate our ideas outside of Libertarian circles, we need to give each other information. You probably think we have plenty of Libertarian publications, sometimes maybe even too many for a busy person to consistently read. The type of communication I am concerned with is not theory, past events or future plans, it is communication between the National L.P. and the State parties.

Recently I sent a letter to every State Chair in the Libertarian Party asking for feedback from them and their members relative to the roles of the National Officers, NatCom and Headquarters. I requested that they share their experiences and perceptions with me, so that the information could be used to improve our operations at the National level. Since each State party is at a different point of development, each has singular needs. The National Committee needs to know what the members' requirements are, if we are to address any of those issues.

We all receive mailings describing what tremendous progress the L.P. has experienced since 1976, and the greater strides we made in 1978 due to better organizing and fundraising. I think there is yet another measure of the Libertarian Party's success, and that is how well is the National organiza-

tion with each other, our growing pains will increase and our growth and operations will be hampered.

I would like to know what our members expect from the National leadership, and I would like our members to know what we on the NatCom do in our volunteer positions. Our goal is to provide support, but we cannot do it in a meaningful and efficient way unless we know your requirements.

Write to me, through COLORADO LIBERTY, about your concerns. I will answer all legitimate letters in this column, or use your thoughts to generate an article addressing a specific issue. This space is not going to be a general complaint column, but I do want to hear about some of your disappointing experiences, as well as your expectations. This column is devoted to that kind of feedback and response. I feel this approach is particularly important now because of our growth and successes. The State and National organizations should work together in a more coordinated fashion. We can diminish misunderstandings, poor timing of joint projects, and generally perform better if we let each other know what we are doing and thinking.

Let it not be said, that what we have here is a failure to communicate.

Governor in 1978, recently finished second in a six-way race for Mayor of Las Vegas. The election was characterized by a very low voter turnout and the incumbent was re-elected, but Grayson's showing received favorable comment from local papers. Dan Becan received about 2% of the vote in his campaign against numerous candidates for Mayor of Reno. The Nevada LP has also been active in the recent gasoline shortage, having produced a TV ad explaining the LP's view of the energy problem. They were also recently active in a campaign to fight a ban on nude dancing in Las Vegas.

The Arizona LP is also noted for its highly successful local and state campaigns in 1976 and 1978. The Arizona party had in fact gained permanent ballot status for their efforts, only to have that status struck down in the courts after a challenge by the Republicans and Democrats. The Arizona party had fought all the way to the State Supreme Court. Recently, Arizona began a campaign to place on the Arizona ballot a Constitutional Amendment that would abolish the imposition of "any tax, impost, fee or license on the growing, cultivation, marketing, processing, distributing or sale of food or food products in the State of Arizona." Petitions must be signed by 80,000 registered voters, an enor-

more active states in 1980, as they already have ballot status.

New Mexico and Wyoming have not made the progress that other states in the region have. While New Mexico's Bob Walsh has campaigned for elected office on a number of occasions, both states have had problems developing to any great extent. Part of New Mexico's present problem is an ongoing struggle with the Secretary of State for ballot status. It seems likely that a lawsuit will have to be initiated to get the LP on the ballot in 1980. Wyoming was not on the ballot in 1976, and that is certainly a key to their problems, along with the sparse population of the state. Ballot status will be a major goal for 1980.

At the 1977 National Convention, there were three candidates for the two Regional Representative seats on the National Committee. They didn't surface until the regional caucus to elect the reps. That won't be the case in 1979. Under the current regional set-up, it is almost certain that there will be five or six candidates for the two positions, including myself and Rick White of Nevada, the other current rep. The campaigns for these positions should be spirited and will serve as further evidence that Region Three is one of the strongest in the LP.

