

# Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

## Budget deal is a raw deal for taxpayers

WASHINGTON, DC --

Do you like skyrocketing government spending, a more complex tax code, and new federal welfare programs?

Then you'll love the new budget agreement, said the Libertarian Party today--just like all the celebrating Republican and Democratic politicians do.

"Don't pop the cork on that champagne bottle so quickly," warned Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party national chairman. "This budget deal is a raw deal for taxpayers and a sweetheart deal for politicians."

President Bill Clinton and Republican Congressional leaders yesterday hailed the five-year budget agreement, which goes to the House Thursday for a vote.

The deal--which they called "historic" because the

surging economy may generate enough tax revenue to almost balance the budget--includes \$140 billion in narrowly targeted tax credits, \$50 billion in tax increases, and a federal budget that grows from \$1.68 trillion in 1998 to a whopping \$1.9 trillion by the year 2002.

"Why are Republicans and Democrats so happy about this budget?" asked Dasbach. "It's because they get all their favorite things: More federal revenue to spend, more federal programs to administer, and a more complicated tax code that allows them to pick economic winners and losers.

"The only folks who aren't celebrating are average Americans, who get minuscule tax cuts wrapped in complicated tax-code red tape--while the total cost of the fed-

(Please turn to page 16)

## Fishin' and swimmin' clean Governor



Forrest Wilkinson at the helm of the good boat *Liberty* on the Minnesota River on the River Warren Education Foundation Expedition 1997

By Charles Test

I finally got to go on a River Warren Education Foundation expedition down the Minnesota River. The fourth annual river trip was made up of Minnesota Representative Tom Workman & his three young daughters, Tom's neighbor Steve & his two young daughters, Colin & Forrest Wilkinson and your author. We had three canoes and the flat bottomed, square bowed sailboat Liberty as our "barge" for carrying our implements of camping. The July 18-19, 1997 float was from Belle Plain to Shakopee with an overnight campout on a sandbar just downriver from Jordon. After all the July rains, the river was wide with a good current, with more rain predicted. All we had to do was steer our canoes.

Here we were, sinking into river mud, launching our

boats into what Governor Arne Carlson, just last year, called "the state's most-polluted river." It is also the governor's intent to make the river "fishable and swimable" by 2002. Too late governor, people are already fishing and swimming in the Minnesota River. I saw "Do not eat the fish" and "No swimming" signs at the public boat landings. However people were fishing and jet skiing in the silty ol' Minnesota. We saw fish jumping, herons flying, and after Saturday morning's downpours toads hopping all over our sandbar campsite. We floated for miles without seeing any sign of human activity. Miles of tangled trees, eroded river banks, and tributary streams teeming with life. The water is dirty. It's full of clay and fine sand. The kind of clay-mud that sucks the shoes off your feet (Please turn to page 16)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Libertarian Forum **Will resume in the Fall.**  
Hamline University Learning Center  
Call Anthony Sanders for details: 612 523-4358

Next executive committee meeting  
For exact date and details, call Charles Test 612 874-8531

Outreach and Cable access  
Meetings are the first Monday of each month  
Contact Eric Johnson at 612 436-8183

Monthly member telephoning  
Ken Poe at 612 893-2398

August 17 Sunday  
Cedarfest on the West Bank in Minneapolis  
LP of MN booth

August 21 Thursday - September 1 Monday  
Minnesota State Fair  
LP of MN booth

September 9 Tuesday  
Local primaries in Minneapolis and St. Paul.  
We have Bob Odden, Sam Huston and Anthony Sanders running

March or April 1998  
Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention

July 2-5, 1998  
Libertarian Party National Convention in Washington, DC

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# Proliferating liberty, some simply ideas that are known to work

By Josh Mercer

How many of us discovered Libertarianism by a co-worker, innocently picking up a copy of the Freeman? In other words, didn't Libertarianism find us rather than the other way around?

So, how do we increase the likelihood that others will "bump" into Libertarianism?

## 1. Increase Accidental Encounters

The best and cheapest way to introduce liberty is to hand out copies of the World's Smallest Political Quiz. These quizzes can be left at restaurants, phone booths, laundromats, almost anywhere. The quiz is the size of a business card and is the first thing I give to anyone that might be interested in libertarianism, friend or perfect stranger.

If you are interested in the quiz, contact the Advocates for Self-

Government,  
3955 Pleasantdale Rd.  
#106A, Atlanta GA 30340.

## 2. Become Non-Confrontational

Would you want to listen to a person that appeared pushy, pompous, or downright crazy? Sometimes we get so excited and passionate about liberty that we lose sight of reality and turn off potential political partners.

Before we plan to answer someone, strangely enough, we actually have to listen to what they say. Make sure that you understood what they said first, then offer a response that shows respect for the questioner. Don't simply say "The Market Will Take Care of It", but don't recite verses from Human Action either.

## 3. Know When to Say When

It's not just for drinking anymore. When out petitioning, it is counterproductive to try to engage in a Lincoln-Douglas

debate. You are not out recruiting members, you are trying to get on the ballot. True enough, you should have material on the party's positions and information to join, but you should limit your response to questions with brief, 30 second answers.

Also, realize that Libertarianism is just not for everyone. Try your best, and know when to move on. If you give a good introduction to liberty, they might pursue it a few years down the road. Overnight conversions are rare.

## 4. Reaching Those We Know

The first step to reach friend, family, or co-workers should still be the Quiz. Then you might choose to give them a gift. Frederic Bastiat's The Law is a pocket-sized book that presents Libertarianism in under 80 pages. Copies can be purchased at around \$3 by The

Foundation for Economic Education, 30 South Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533.

In fact, it was the notion that we needed more material to proliferate liberty that I've decided to edit a book called Six Lessons To Teach Your Favorite Politican. It would be about the same size and little cheaper than Bastiat's book so that advocates of liberty could give them out to new prospects.

The book would contain six essays, each on a different aspect of the Libertarian view. Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is the shortest and best moral defense of freedom from government. To explain the spontaneous order of the market, I've included Leonard Read's "I, Pencil".

This book will provide a brilliant essay by Lysander Spooner called "Vices Are Not Crimes" and the speech made

against government charity by Congressman Davy Crockett called "Not Ours to Give". Also included are an essay by Bastiat on unintended consequences and a speech by William Graham Sumner on the dangers of an interventionist foreign policy. If anyone is interested in this book, they can contact me via E-mail at [mercer@iname.com](mailto:mercer@iname.com)

In the future the message that "Freedom Works" will be heard in our songs, read in our news, and depicted in our movies. Until then, we must present our vision in a polite and civil manner armed with information in case those we know (or don't know!) want to join us in our fight for liberty.

-Josh Mercer is a student at Hillsdale College, MI, and a resident of Long Lake, MN.

## What's a Libertarian?

To put it simply, Libertarians believe that you have the right to live your life as you wish, without the government interfering-as long as you don't violate the rights of others.

Politically, this means Libertarians favor rolling back the size and cost of government, and eliminating laws that stifle the economy and control people's personal choices.

## Are Libertarians liberal or conservative?

Libertarians are neither. Unlike liberals or conservatives, Libertarians advocate a high degree of both personal and economic You might think of it this

way: Libertarians "borrow" from both sides to come up with a logical whole.

For example, Libertarians agree with conservatives on the need for freedom in economic matters; in favor of lowering taxes, slash-

ing bureaucratic regulation of business, and charitable-rather than government-welfare.

But Libertarians also agree with liberals on tolerance in personal matters- in favor of people's right to choose their own personal habits and lifestyles.

## LP cost Republicans seats in '96 elections

WASHINGTON, DC --

In a surprising accusation, a former Republican Congressman said the Libertarian Party caused the GOP to lose seven U.S. House seats in the 1996 election.

Interviewed on the nationally syndicated Gil Gross radio show on May 28th, ex-Congressman Bob Dornan said, "Seven good Republicans lost their seats because a Libertarian was in the race [in 1996]."

Dornan's accusation was significant because the Republican majority in the House dropped from 38 seats to 20 seats after the 1996 election. This means the GOP lost a net total of nine seats -- seven of them at the hands of Libertarians, according to the former California Congressman.

Dornan's comments left Libertarians slightly surprised, but pleased.

"We know we have a significant impact on Congressional elections, but we're delighted that a leading Republican thinks we cost them so many seats," said the party's National Director, Perry Willis. "Republicans apparently believe we've become very influential."

In all, the Libertarian Party contested 170 U.S. House seats in 1996, with individual candidates winning from 1% to more than 6% of the vote.

Although he didn't list all seven races, Dornan said the victims of the Libertarian

Congressional campaigns included: "Bill Baker of California, Andrea Seastrand [of California], myself, [and] four others across the country. Libertarians knocked off seven fiscal conservatives and replaced every one of them with a flaming liberal Democrat.

Willis agreed that Libertarian candidates have played a deciding role in numerous races, but said Dornan's accusation represented the first time a Republican has put a specific number on the LP's impact.

"It's also the first time Republicans publicly admitted that we have the ability to affect national politics -- and that Libertarians helped shape the partisan complexion of the United States Congress," he said.

In his accusation, Dornan seemed to suggest that LP candidates had pulled more votes from Republicans than Democrats.

"However, that's not necessarily the case," said Willis. "We have no evidence that Libertarians take more votes away from Republicans. If anything, research seems to show that we draw votes evenly from both older parties. But if Dornan's theory is correct, maybe Republicans will start voting for smaller-government--especially if they're afraid of getting bounced out of office."

Dornan's comments were broadcast on 170 stations on the CBS Radio Network. The occasion: A

debate with LP Deputy Director of Communications George Getz about consensual sex laws.

But the conversation quickly veered into electoral politics when Dornan accused Libertarian candidates of helping to defeat Republicans.

Getz immediately countered: "If you Republicans practiced what you preach, you wouldn't be losing your jobs like that. You and the Democratic Party have collaborated on running up a \$5 trillion debt. The people who voted for Libertarians are people who took Republicans at their word--but you [Republicans] lied and lied and lied. The budget this year is bigger than it has ever been, with a Republican majority [in Congress]!"

Dornan served nine terms in the U.S. House, starting in 1976. He lost his most recent bid for re-election in the 38th District, but is contesting the election on the basis of voter fraud.

The feisty, bearded Californian -- nicknamed "B1 Bob" for his impassioned defense of military spending--is perhaps best known for his vitriolic denunciations of homosexuals, "perverts," and the Hollywood lifestyle.

And during the discussion of consensual sex laws, Dornan proudly flaunted his conservative opinions as he argued that laws against adultery, sodomy, fornication, and cohabitation should remain in force.

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**Charles Test** Managing Editor **Larry Hubner** Senior Editor  
**Production Pro Tem** Test Studios - South Minneapolis

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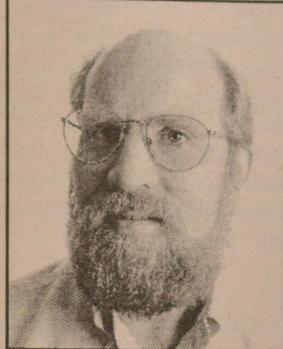
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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

At the end of June my wife Suzanne and I took a short trip to Decorah, Iowa to Northeastern Iowa. I wanted to photograph the Decorah East Side School designed by Edgar E. Joralemon in 1893. I began researching the work of Edgar E. Joralemon in the 1980s during my short



Charles Test

lived historic inner city real estate development days. EEJ designed my pride and joy, the Holmes House in Minneapolis. I intend to write a book on his work someday. We also wanted to meet two local citizens who are leading the fight to save and renovate the school. The local school board wants to tear it down and build a new school. It's a familiar story: the school board defers maintenance to its schools until they need so much renovation and updating that the school board can claim building a new school is better. The East Side School is in excellent original condition, including opening double-hung windows. It needs updating, but it's a beautiful solid structure. My friends wanted to preserve their history and save tax money by conserving what they had. The school bureaucracy could only think new everything, we'll just raise taxes. This happens all the time with America's first generation schools and other public buildings. Sometimes it takes a new school board to change things.

We travel the back roads. We like to visit small town businesses. I didn't mean to discuss politics with people, but it cropped up in conversa-

tion. Early in the trip, we stopped at a small upholstery/antique shop with a nice grandma-type lady. I joked to Suzanne about trying the home-made "fudge" that was really home-made soap. It didn't work. Then the lady commented she'd really like to offer a little fudge for sale but she was afraid of the health bureaucracy and regulations making it too much hassle and expense. The world will never savor her secret fudge recipe. At another shop the owner talked about how difficult it was for her husband and her to save money. Government penalties for early withdrawal before age 59 1/2 were a big pain. At the ma and pa Scenic Valley Motel we stayed at, the owners complained that government at every level just created a lot of headaches in their lives. Their children were having a hard time making ends meet because of their tax and regulation burdens. The feeling was that government at all levels makes life needlessly and sometimes harmfully difficult and expensive for regular people.

Another thing I noticed about Iowa, in addition to the beautiful scenery (we were the northeast corner of Iowa) and the friendly, talkative people, was that everything cost noticeably less. I think the sales tax is "only" 5% versus 7% in Minnesota. The big difference was when we ate out. Coming from Minneapolis where sales, convention center, Dome, entertainment, meal and liquor taxes add 12%-15% to your dinner bill, Iowa was heaven. In Lansing, home of the million-item store, Suzanne and I had a round of drinks, ate a fine dinner with salad bar for less than \$19 before tip! It's amazing how much more affordable life could be in Minnesota if government didn't tax and raise the cost of doing business so much. It makes things so plain why so many Minnesota businesses are expanding to South

Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin border towns. ■

## Thank you Caryn

For all the years of service to the Libertarian Party of Minnesota.

Our ex-chair, ex-secretary, ex-exec comm. member... Caryn Cohen is moving back to Long Island, New York. She will soon be a New York child-psychologist, a job she had in Eagan, MN. Caryn has been invaluable in making sure all the little details get done in the LP of MN. missed. The *Minnesota Libertarian* will miss her proof-reading skills. Her attention will be (is) already

Best of luck to you in New York.

## Support your candidates

We have three Twin Cities Metro area candidates running this fall. Bob Odden and Sam Huston in Minneapolis and Anthony Sanders in St. Paul. They need your help. If you live in Hennepin or Ramsey counties please give them a call and volunteer to door-knock or to give money. If you live in the 4th (southeast U of M neighborhood) or 9th (Powderhorn neighborhood) wards of Minneapolis or the 4th ward of St. Paul (Hamline University neighborhood) please offer our candidates a lawn sign location.

Bob Odden is working every day telephoning and door-knocking. Bob's ward has four people running: DFL, Republican, Green and Bob. He has to come in first or second in the primary in order to be in the November general election.

Anthony Sanders has four competitors too.

Our candidate Sam Huston is Council-member Joan Campbell's only opposition, at all, in Minneapolis's 4th ward.

See candidate numbers below.

## Contact your LPMN candidates

**Eric Johnson US Congress 6 Lakeland, MN**

**612 436-8183**

**Larry Fuhol US Congress 8 Isanti, MN**

**612 444-9008**

**Rich Osness MN House 27B Austin, MN**

**507 433-5734**

**Bob Odden Minneapolis City Council Ward 9 612 721-7649**

**Sam Huston Minneapolis City Council Ward 2 612 627-9973**

**Anthony Sanders St. Paul City Council Ward 4 612 523-4358**

# Help needed:

Hosts for informal libertarian pot-luck get-to-know each other parties. Detailed instructions upon request. This is a proven method of growing party membership and activity. Please consider hosting a get-together in your home, back yard, local park or public hall, today.

Reporters and writers for the *Minnesota Libertarian*

Experienced ad sales representative to sell ads in the *Minnesota Libertarian* on commission

Coordinators for a variety of outreach activities

Call Metro: 223-0995 or Greater MN: 800 788-2660

## Items needed

Cheap MAC or PC based computers with color monitors to run the Advocates for Self-Government world's smallest political quiz on at outreach events.

A VCR/TV combo unit for playing libertarian video tapes at outreach events.

Multi-pocketed wire pamphlet holders for outreach events. Wire should be much more durable than plexi-glass

A 6 - 8 foot *Statue of Liberty* for a trailered LPMN float for parades.

A snowmobile or motorcycle sized trailer for the future LPMN float for parades.

## We need you to run

## One political party is different

By Rich Osness

One of the most common questions Libertarians are asked is "What is a Libertarian?" or "How are Libertarians different from the Republican, Democrat or Reform Parties?" Sometimes we haven't answered these questions well.

There is, of course, the dictionary definition that we believe in the greatest amount of personal freedom practical. We also have the stock answer that we believe in less government interference in our lives or very limited government. These answers don't adequately spell out the uniqueness of the Libertarian party. After all, who could not be for freedom or limited government? Isn't that what all political parties embrace?

All political philosophies advocate the same worthy goals, a better, safer life for all citizens. The differences are in the methods advocated to achieve these goals. The means to achieve this better life is the difference between political philosophies. What

political philosophy would want to create the chaos and poverty that exists in North Korea?

The difference in methods that Libertarians advocate is not simply more freedom or less government. The difference is that almost every Libertarian position involves the absence of force. The Republican, Democrat or Reform Party solutions to every problem involve force with its implicit threat of violence.

Support this cause with your tax dollars or else. Send your children to this school or else. Don't sell drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, penicillin or flu vaccine or else. Pay your employees this much or else. Give up the means to defend yourself or else. The "or else" is the use of force to compel compliance.

We do need government. We need a government that protects our property and our persons from harm by others. In addition, a good government should provide a court system for peacefully settling civil disputes. To

accomplish this the use of force is sometimes necessary but it should be very strictly limited. When government goes beyond these limited roles, Libertarians believe government exceeds its moral authority and its practical capabilities. Even if our leaders knew what was best for us (they don't), they abandon any pretense of morality when they advocate the use of force to achieve their goals.

Libertarians advocate a free marketplace for services, goods, thought and speech. The other three parties advocate force to the restricting of or subsidizing of thought, speech, services and trade in goods.

Libertarians believe that if there is a charitable need people will voluntarily serve that need at an appropriate level. The other three parties believe that people should be forced to serve charitable needs at the level they think appropriate.

The difference is the Libertarian Party does not advocate force to solve every problem. The others

# Pull the plug on political corruption hearings, say Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC —

Want to put an end to political corruption and influence-peddling?

Start by pulling the plug on the Congressional hearings on campaign fund-raising now going on in Washington, DC, says the Libertarian Party.

"Ending this charade now would have two immediate benefits," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman. "First, it would save taxpayers millions of dollars. Second, it would deny politicians the chance to use their past crimes as an excuse to write more bad laws — such as increased taxpayer funding for political campaigns."

"More important,

these hearings are pointless because they're attempting to prove something that a vast majority of Americans already know: That Republicans and Democrats are drowning in a cesspool of corruption."

The hearings, which continue this week, focus on charges of illegal fund-raising by the White House and Congressional Democrats and Republicans. Sifting through the myriad charges of corruption and influence-peddling will take until year's end, investigators estimate — and cost taxpayers more than \$10 million.

"Did Bill Clinton accept millions of dollars

from shadowy Asian businessmen to fund his re-election?" Dasbach asked. "Did Congressional Republicans and Democrats accept millions from corporations and labor unions in exchange for government contracts and corporate subsidies? Of course they did — and the American people know it."

"Unfortunately, the politicians who are holding these hearings are the same ones who wrote the laws they broke, and who created a lucrative government treasure chest for the special interests to fight over. Counting on politicians to enact reforms is like letting Mike Tyson referee his next boxing match."

In fact, recent public opinion polls show that voters already know what politicians are spending \$10 million to discover — that "corrupt politician" is a redundancy.

\* By a margin of 45% to 35%, Americans think the country's foreign policy was for sale during the 1996 elections, according to a poll released this week by Fox News and Opinion Dynamics.

\* A majority of Americans — 51% — believe that "quite a few people running the government are crooked," according to a New York Times poll taken last November.

\* An astounding 94% of Americans distrust the federal government, a Washington polling firm found in May.

"Politicians are well aware that they've sold the government to the highest bidder," Dasbach said. "So why are they taking such a perverse delight in exposing their sins on national television?"

"Perhaps because the real purpose of these hearings is to sneak through so-called campaign finance reforms that will let them pretend they've solved the problem — while protecting their hold on power."

For example, Dasbach noted that proposals are already being floated on

Capitol Hill to force taxpayers to completely subsidize Democratic and Republican political campaigns and to compel television networks to air political ads for free.

So what's the real solution to cleaning up Washington, DC?

"The only way to end political corruption for good is to strip politicians of their ability to hand out favors at taxpayers' expense," Dasbach said. "And that means dramatically reducing the size and power of government. After all, the only politician who can't be bought is one who has nothing to sell." ■

## Tobacco settlement is bad news — even if you've never smoked

WASHINGTON, DC —

The biggest losers in the new tobacco settlement are not the tobacco companies or America's 50 million smokers — but the 210 million Americans who don't smoke, the Libertarian Party said today.

"You're next," the party's national chairman, Steve Dasbach, bluntly warned America's non-smokers. "This settlement vastly expands the power of the federal government — and whatever your bad habit is, the politicians and lawyers will come after you next."

Under the terms of the settlement announced Friday, the tobacco industry will be forced to pay \$368

billion over 25 years, mostly to state governments and the federal government.

**This settlement establishes a perilous precedent: That the government can levy massive punitive damages against a popular product because of the so-called public health consequences," said Dasbach.**

"Ask yourself: Who's next? Will the government go after the fast-food industry for selling fatty hamburgers? Ban dangerous sports like hang-gliding and skate boarding? Outlaw alcohol again? Make it illegal to get a suntan?"

"Once the government has total power to punish or prohibit personal habits

in the name of public health, it's only a matter of time until you're their next target. Thanks to this settlement, your right to choose may go up in smoke."

An equally frightening aspect of the settlement, said Dasbach, is the government's all-out assault on free speech in the name of restricting tobacco advertising.

**"If Congress ratifies this agreement, Americans will suffer from the second-hand smoke of the Bill of Rights being torched," he said. "In their frenzy to control tobacco, politicians want the power to drastically restrict the First Amendment."**

### The agreement:

\* Makes it illegal for tobacco companies to advertise on billboards or the Internet, and prohibits the use of human or cartoon images in cigarette advertising.

\* Prohibits tobacco company sponsorship of sporting events, and prohibits tobacco product placements in movies and on TV.

\* Makes it illegal to sell clothes that feature cigarette brand names.

"This is a free speech issue, plain and simple," said Dasbach. "Even if you don't like what tobacco companies advertise, it's

hard to imagine any American giving the government the power to outlaw t-shirts and baseball caps just because they feature the Marlboro Man."

But the settlement doesn't stop there, said Dasbach. It also expands the regulatory power of the Food & Drug Administration, giving it the ability to ban nicotine by 2009.

**"Potentially, we're just 12 years away from total cigarette prohibition," he said. "In 2009, the FDA can ban nicotine — which would create a thriving illegal black market in bootleg cigarettes. Hasn't the government learned anything from its last**

**failed war: The War on Drugs?"**

Congress must approve the settlement, and is expected to debate the provisions over the next several months.

"Even if you don't smoke, don't like cigarettes, and hate the tobacco companies, you should oppose this agreement," said Dasbach. "You should tell the politicians that you don't approve of their blackmail of the tobacco industry, and don't like this government power grab."

**"Remember: The only winners are lawyers and politicians. The loser is every American who values freedom of choice for adults."** ■

## Boycott government's "official" racial categories

WASHINGTON, DC —

The Libertarian Party has launched a national campaign to abolish the government's system of racial classifications, and is urging Americans to refuse to disclose their race on census forms in the year 2000.

**"For 20 long years, the U.S. government has demeaned every American by pigeonholing us according to the color of our skin," said the party's national chairman, Steve Dasbach. "In three years, when the census takers ask about our race, we hope Americans will stand up and say: 'No more. Tell these fill-in-the-blank bureaucrats that your race is none of the government's business.'"**

The party launched the cam-

paign this week when the federal government, after a three-year study, decided not to abolish its five official racial classifications. Instead, government bureaucrats said multiracial Americans should check several boxes, such as black and white, on the 2000 census form.

**The goals of the Libertarian Party's "Say No to Racial Classifications" campaign are to build public awareness of how politicians exploit racial classifications to further divide the nation along racial grounds, and to eliminate them from all government forms, said Dasbach.**

"We're telling Americans: Stop and think before you check that box," Dasbach said. "If millions of Americans

withheld their racial data from the government, the politicians' framework for American Apartheid would crash to the ground."

To spread the word, the party is enlisting the support of a network of activists and registered voters across the country and is mounting a nationwide media blitz.

The government's current five "official" racial categories, created by the Office of Management and Budget in 1977, are white, black, American Indian/Eskimo, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic. Federal agencies use the classifications to bestow benefits such as jobs, low-interest loans, and college scholarships.

"Sadly, the government of a nation dedicated to liberty and equality under the law is using arbitrary racial characteristics as a wedge to pry Americans further apart," Dasbach said.

Even the courts are getting into the act, and have become America's latest racial battleground, Dasbach noted.

In March, for example, an Egyptian immigrant implored a federal court to change his government-mandated racial classification from white to black. The man, Mostafa Hefny of Detroit, insists that he is black because his ancestors come from the ancient black kingdom of Nubia, which is now part of Egypt and Sudan. But the government insists that he is white.

In an attempt to

get himself reclassified as black, Hefny explained to the court that his skin is darker than General Colin Powell's, who is officially classified as black.

"Why is the government so obsessed with the color of Hefny's skin?" Dasbach asked. "Because politicians are desperately fighting to preserve racial categories so they can preserve their power to hand out favors."

Dasbach encouraged

American politicians to learn from other nations with more progressive racial policies — such as South Africa.

"A decade ago, the U.S. government imposed trade sanctions to pressure the South African government to repeal its system of racial classification called

Apartheid," he said. "Wouldn't it be ironic if

South Africa, which has since repudiated government-sponsored racial discrimination, now imposed sanctions against the United States for the same reason?"

Fortunately, if the Libertarian Party's campaign is successful, American politicians won't have to rely on a foreign government to teach them racial tolerance, Dasbach said.

**"Every single American can strike a blow for a colorblind society by saying 'no' to the census takers and 'no' to racial classifications," Dasbach said. "We're all Americans — what else does the government need to know?"** ■

### Libertarians in action

#### Tax reduction:

The Libertarian Party was instrumental in repealing the income tax in Alaska, and Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire were leaders in the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

#### Choice in education:

The Libertarian Party has vigorously fought for free market reform in education to increase educational opportunities for all children. We've worked for referendums and sponsored legislation to return tax money to parents so they can choose the best school for their children instead of being at the mercy of failing government schools.

# Proposed carbon taxes bad news

By Forrest Wilkinson  
staff lobbyist LP of MN

Senate File 1110, Senators Morse, Laidig, Hottinger, Junge and Novak is the carbon tax on steroids. The rhetoric used to defend it can be found in many places including the July 1997 CITY PAGES article by Monica Bauerlein titled "The Hot Zone". You will recognize this back issue lying around with its cover, "Welcome to the Greenhouse: Global warming isn't just a theory anymore. So what now?"

Well, I'll tell you what now; if SF 1110 and its companion(s) become law the INTERIM assessment on: gasoline will be 2.6 cents per gallon, fuel oil (including diesel) 2.9 cents/gal, natural gas .15/gal, coal 6 dollars or 4 dollars per ton depending, coal fired electricity .361/kwh, gas fired electricity .157/kwh, nuclear generated electricity at the average non-nuke electricity assessment. I will not address what is done with this assessment here, but keep in mind this is a tax on energy in many forms. This is to be collected from consumers to pay their "environmental emissions assessment"; a tax of around \$50.00/ton carbon content of fuel, so far. All based on false assumptions and bad science. Kill SF 1110 and anything that

looks like it.

## Proposed new taxes in SF 1110

32 (b) The interim assessments for the period beginning 33 January 1, 1998, for gasoline, fuel oil, natural gas, coal, and 34 electricity are:  
35(1) gasoline 2.6 cents/gallon  
36 (2) fuel oil

### Section 3

1 (including diesel fuel)  
2.9 cents/gallon  
2 (3) natural gas  
.15 cents/thousand cubic feet;  
3 (4) coal having a heating value  
4 over 11,500 BTU/LB  
\$6.00/ton of coal;  
5 (5) coal having a heat value less  
6 than 11,500 BTU per pound \$4.60/ton;  
7 (6) coal fired electricity .361 cents per kwh;  
8 (7) gas fired electricity .157 cents per kwh.  
9 (c) The assessment rate for electricity sold for  
10 consumption within the state shall be determined by the  
11 commissioner for each electric utility in mills per kilowatt  
12 hour of electricity sold.

# Campaign countdown: Election '98

By Eric Johnson

You and the influential minority of your fellow Libertarian Congressmen have been in the limelight for weeks as several controversial bills you co-authored wend their way through committees and public hearings. One bill eliminates the payroll deduction for income taxes, putting the requirement to pay income taxes directly on each individual taxpayer.

If this bill passes, the stage will be set for a constitutional amendment repealing the 16th Amendment. Other bills eliminate the Departments of Energy, Labor, Agriculture, the SBA, TVA, DEA and numerous other wasteful government programs that have outlived their usefulness, if they had any real use at all. The government workers employed by the condemned agencies have had plenty of time to find truly productive jobs in the booming private sector. Many people are furious, but in time they will thank you for the 20 hour work week, leisure and prosperity that will result from your dismantling of the welfare state.

Time to wake up from the daydream and face reality. Republicans and Democrats can't be depended on to cut the size of government. Most members of the old parties are addicted

to the power and money of a redistributive government. If liberty is to have a chance, it is up to us Libertarians to become as big as the Republicans and Democrats. We must grow the party, attract the people who agree with us, run credible campaigns and win them. Every candidate and campaign we run now is a building block for future victory.

Where will we find candidates? You, the members of the Libertarian Party will be the candidates. Next year's campaigns will attract more members. Some of those members will be our future candidates.

If there is another way to dismantle the welfare state many of us would like to know what it is.

Now is the time to plan ahead for next year's election. First you should identify what office you are interested in running for: local, state or federal. How much time are you willing to invest in your campaign? Do you truly have an aching desire to be the first Libertarian Party candidate to win a state or federal office? Or do you just want to be on the ballot to give voters the opportunity to vote for a third party candidate?

The Libertarian Party is a minor party as defined by Minnesota Statute, therefore all of our candidates must

file for office by nominating petition. In 1998, the petitioning period is from July 7 to July 21. Petitioning is the most critical point in the campaign; not enough signatures means you won't be on the ballot.

The Campaign Manual from the Minnesota Secretary of State will give you the guidelines of financial reporting and fair campaign practices. If you are seeking a federal office contact the Federal Election Commission.

General campaign advice is in your local library. If you want to run an active campaign, write a multi-page campaign platform. This will help you to clarify the issues, so you can present them in a credible manner to the voters. You may even want to put your platform on your personal Internet website. Condense your platform into a one page brochure distribute door to door to voters. Give the platform to people who are more interested in your positions. Remember to focus on the issues that are important to the voters, not necessarily your pet issues.

All candidates will need volunteers for petitioning. If you want to run an active campaign you will need volunteers to help going door to door, passing out your campaign brochure. The LPMN executive committee can give

you the names of party members in your area who may be interested in helping your campaign.

There are millions of people waiting for something new in politics, waiting for someone to boldly proclaim the truth about the failure of the welfare state. The country needs you more than ever to run for office as a Libertarian Party candidate.

### Checklist:

- Identify the office you want to run for.
- Contact the LP of MN executive committee for an official endorsement.
- Contact the Secretary of State for a copy of the Minnesota Campaign Manual.
- Check your local library for books about how to run a campaign.
- Find volunteers to help you with petitioning and campaigning.

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20463  
(800)424-9530

Secretary of State  
Election Division  
180 State Office Building  
100 Constitution Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299  
(612)215-1440 ■

Please volunteer today call 1 800 788-2660

# Harry Browne radio commentaries and recruitment ads aired

HARRY BROWNE RADIO COMMENTARIES WITH LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT ADS ARE SCHEDULED TO RUN ON 130 STATIONS NATIONWIDE

Harry Browne's radio commentaries begin running this week on the Radio America Network. Each commentary is 90 seconds long, accompanied by a 60-second Libertarian Party membership recruitment ad.

The text of the LP ad copy is reproduced below along with two sample commentaries. Each 2 1/2 minute package will run about four times a day during the time period indicated on the station list -- which appears below in alpha order for your convenience.

### RECRUITMENT AD

Do you think government is too big, too expensive, and too intrusive?

If so, you're not alone. Polls show that most

Americans want much smaller government, much lower taxes, much less government in their lives.

Despite this, government just gets bigger and bigger--no matter who controls the White House or Congress--because the American people have had to choose between two parties that thrive on big government.

But that's no longer the case. The Libertarian Party is growing rapidly. We are building an organization so big, so strong, and so well-financed that we can challenge the old parties in the year 2000--offering a *true*, small-government alternative.

If you want much smaller government, you belong in the Libertarian Party. Call 1-800-272-1776 now to get more information.

You'll meet people who think as you do. So call 1-800-272-1776.

This ad was paid for by the Libertarian National Committee, Dan Gallagher, Treasurer, through a contribution by (donor's name).

### Sample Commentary #1

#### GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WORK

This is Harry Browne.

Politicians have solutions for everything. But to sell us the latest government program, they have to ignore one simple truth: Government doesn't work.

It can't deliver the mail on time, it doesn't keep our cities safe, it doesn't educate our children properly.

But the politicians play a gigantic game of "let's pretend": let's pretend the War on Poverty really does help poor people; let's pretend the War on Drugs really does reduce drug abuse and crime; let's pretend the next law Congress passes really will do what its backers say, so all we have to do is decide what wonderful things we want government to do, and they'll be done.

Government doesn't work. Its schools can't protect children from bullies, drug dealers, or violence. Government housing projects can't protect the resi-

dents from gangs that terrorize them.

Government doesn't work. It doesn't matter whether the good guys or the bad guys propose a new program. It doesn't matter whether the program is supposed to achieve something you want or something you don't want.

Government doesn't work, and any new proposal will be no better than all the failed programs of the past.

Government doesn't work. And we should stop dreaming that some social problem can be solved by passing another law.

The only way to improve government is by reducing its size -- by repealing laws, by getting rid of programs, by shrinking government as far as we can.

Why? Because government doesn't work.

### Sample Commentary #2

#### POLITICIANS

This is Harry Browne.

Ignorance of the law may not be a valid excuse

for you or me, but ignorance of a subject has never stopped Congressmen from legislating. They will legislate on any topic in the universe.

They usually don't read the bills they vote for or know what's in them. They even use that as an excuse when the new laws produce bad consequences. Today Congressmen tell us "I didn't know this would happen" when the Americans for Disabilities Act makes it impossible for employers to fire drug addicts, or the 1994 crime bill turns out to be more pork-barrel than crime-prevention.

They won't speak the truth about what they're doing. They talk of "budget cuts" that aren't really cuts at all, but instead are merely slowdowns in the speed at which they wish government programs would grow. The recent budget deal they're so proud of the one they say contains tough "budget cuts" -- actually produces a government that's 4% larger than last year's budget.

This is Harry Browne.

HARRY BROWNE 2000 Presidential Exploratory Committee  
2556 Virginia Avenue NW / Suite 101  
Washington, DC 20037  
Email [LibertyWire@HarryBrowne2000.org](mailto:LibertyWire@HarryBrowne2000.org)

# Public schools: turning children and parents into peons

By James Bovard

Public education is the most expensive "gift" that most Americans will ever receive. Government school systems are increasingly coercive and abusive toward both parents and students. While politicians speak grandly of the supposed benefits of public education, government courts have ensured that parents and children have no legal rights to a decent education.

Federal, state, and local governments impose over \$270 billion in taxes to pay for public schools for 40 million students. A 1992 study by the Center for Government Services at Rutgers University found that nationwide, the equivalent of almost 5 percent of Americans per capita income is spent to pay for government elementary and secondary schools.

Most parents pay more in federal, state, and local taxes than the government spends to educate their children. Discussions about public education often implicitly assume that public education is a gift from benevolent politicians and wise administrators for which people must be grateful. But talking of free schools makes as much sense as talking of free taxes. The reason that government schools appear to be free is that politicians force parents to pay for their children's schooling with taxes. But paying for schools with taxes, rather than voluntarily writing a check directly to the schools, radically changes parents' relation to the school. Forcing parents and others to pay for children's education with taxes has greatly increased government power over American families.

Government schools have a de facto monopoly on elementary and secondary education in the United States. Government schools enroll almost 90 percent of all children of school age because few parents can afford to pay twice for their children's education. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell observed in 1974: Most parents cannot afford the luxury of a private education for their children and the dual obligation of private tuitions and public taxes.

Government school systems provide ample opportunities to subjugate, coerce, and humiliate young people. In Nacogdoches, Texas, elementary school students who forget their pencils are forced to wear bricks around their necks as a

reminder. In Bartow, Florida, students are required to chew gum ten minutes a day because some school official read that chewing sugarless gum helps prevent tooth decay. In Colorado City, Arizona, a teenager was expelled from school for wearing a T-shirt with a penguin on it the school principal suspected that the penguin image promoted devil worship. School officials have received increased power in the last decade to strip search children and to force them to submit themselves to the nation's leading experts on constitutional rights drug-sniffing dogs. On the other hand, government schools, increasingly paralyzed by lawsuits, routinely fail to do enough to restrain and punish students who commit violent acts against teachers and others.

Government schools are becoming more like a prison and less like a voluntary association of pupils and teachers for the advancement of learning. A 1976 federal report concluded that high schools have become social aging vats that have isolated adolescents and delayed their opportunity to learn adult rules, work habits, and skills and recommended reducing classroom time to between two and four hours a day. John Burkett of the U.S. Department of Education observed in 1991: It is only in the last 25 years or so that we have had this prolonged adolescence by forced schooling. A 1983 research brief by the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice recommended lowering the compulsory attendance age to 15 to eliminate those students who view school as a prison or as a compulsory recreation center, and thus provide a safe environment for those who want to attend.

But the more schools have failed, the more years of students' lives they are commandeering. Since 1978, 11 states have extended the age of compulsory school attendance, and several states now make kindergarten mandatory. Colorado Gov. Roy Romer proposed a law in 1992 that would make schooling mandatory for all at-risk four-year-olds.

School systems are increasingly imposing heavy punishments on young people for missing a few classes regardless of whether they have mastered their lessons. In 1991, the D.C. public school system instituted a new system of penalties, fining parents \$100 and jailing them for up to five days if their

child had two unexcused absences from school in a single month. In 1992, Fairfax County, Virginia, schools began failing any student who missed five days during a three-month quarter regardless of the student's sickness or academic performance. Fairfax parent Nancy Flynn complained: The family sanctity has been threatened. This policy has interfered with my relationship with my kids. I am the one who decides whether they are sick enough to stay home. School board member Anthony T. Lane responded: Whether a parent has the right to take a child out of school, that's their prerogative. It's also the school's prerogative to fail them. School officials thus create new prerogatives for subjugating students regardless of students' academic performance. Fairfax's punitive attendance policy did not improve student performance, but it did result in larger subsidies to local schools because of slightly higher average daily attendance, which determines how much in subsidies the local education system receives from the state government.

The U.S. Department of Education has been aggressive in prosecuting vocational schools that take students' money (primarily federal grants) and then provide little or no training. Yet the main difference between shady vocational schools and floundering public schools is sovereign immunity. It is far worse to promise to teach a person how to read and then spend 12 years breaking that promise than to promise to teach a person how to be a hairdresser and then spend three months breaking that promise.

Public high schools graduate an estimated 700,000 functionally illiterate teenagers each year. In 1977, a functionally illiterate high school graduate in San Francisco sued the public schools, alleging misrepresentation: [the] defendants falsely and fraudulently represented to plaintiff's mother and natural guardian that plaintiff was performing at or near grade level in basic academic skills such as reading and writing and was not in need of any special or remedial assistance in such basic skills.

The California Court of Appeals dismissed the case, opining that to hold public schools to an actionable duty of care, in the discharge of their academic functions, would expose them to the tort claims, real or imagined, of disaffected students and

parents in countless numbers. But just because the schools could be accused of defrauding countless numbers of students and parents is no reason to absolve them of responsibility for their misdeeds.

In a similar case in 1979, the New York Court of Appeals ruled: Recognition in the courts of this cause of action would constitute blatant interference with the responsibility for the administration of the public school system lodged by Constitution and statute in administrative agencies. Regardless of how badly school administrators have deceived and failed to serve students, parents are left no recourse but to file complaints with the same unresponsive bureaucracy.

In 1981, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals rejected a suit by a former student: "The field of education is simply too fraught with unanswered questions for the courts to constitute themselves as a proper forum for resolution of those questions." The educational system policy has enough "answered questions" to force Americans to pay \$270 billion a year in taxes for public schools, yet is too vague for state judges to consider any claims against the schools.

In 1985, a suit was filed on behalf of an Ohio student, alleging that as a result of the negligent acts and omissions by the [public schools], the plaintiff obtained the twelfth grade level and left Steubenville High School with a reading ability of only the first grade and that the schools passed him from grade to grade so as to keep plaintiff in sports activities for the benefit of the athletic system in the schools. Judge O'Neill of the Ohio Court of Appeals scorned the complaint:

"The primary duty of education lies with the parent to vigilantly pursue the education of his or her children. The duty of the State is to provide the means of education. Thus, a child who attends school for 12 years and receives no education must look not to the State but rather to his or her parents for their failure to perform a duty imposed by nature and by law."

The state levied taxes on the parents so that it could perform the duty of education and then deceived the parents and exploited the child by promoting him through his senior year of high school.

Thus, parents have an unlimited liability to pay for public schools, but the public schools have no liability to the parents. Law

Professor Judith H. Berliner Cohen observed:

"No plaintiff to date has been able to convince a court that a school owes him or her any more than 'a chair in a classroom'... Insofar as they have been 'deluded' into believing that it is not necessary to find alternate means of education, the students are arguably worse off than they otherwise would have been."

**Forcing parents to pay thousands of dollars a year in taxes solely for 'a chair in a classroom' is especially unfair, since a student chair costs less than \$200. At current spending levels, parents and other taxpayers nationwide pay an average of almost \$70,000 for 12 years of public schooling for each child. In Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, which spend over \$8,700 per public school student per year, taxpayers are forced to pay over \$100,000 for each child's schooling.**

And what are parents and other taxpayers entitled to for this pay-out? Less respect, poorer service, and fewer contract rights than a person who buys a \$2.50 Big Mac hamburger. The fact that public schools have no liability even for the grossest negligence means that the individual parent is subjugated to whatever the schools choose to offer or inflict on to his children.

A 1983 federal report entitled "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform" observed: If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. But, many parents probably have as much of a chance of influencing a foreign dictator as they have of influencing a big city school board.

(Actually, it may be safer to criticize foreign governments than American school officials. Two parents on a school advisory board in south-central Los Angeles wrote letters to state officials criticizing the school principal. The principal responded with a \$1 million defamation suit.)

Once the citizen loses control of his paycheck regarding his children's education, it is futile in most cities to try to regain that control. The citizen's rights end as soon as his tax dollar reaches the public treasury. Paying for schooling indirectly effectively turns parents from buyers into beggars. (Lawyer Adelle Cohen told the New York Times that if New

York City's District 21 school board considers you an enemy, they take your kid and put him in the slow class.) Public schools vivify how control over financing for a service leads to political controls over people's lives.

In 1979, the New York Appellate Division dismissed an educational malpractice suit, ruling:

"It is our opinion that [the State constitution and state laws] merely require the creation of a system of free common schools. Their purpose is to confer the benefits of free education upon what would otherwise be an uneducated public.

This is the false dichotomy upon which the public school monopoly is based: public education or an uneducated public. This view stands history on its head, since it was private schools and private learning that created the mass literacy for which America was renowned 200 years ago. John Adams wrote in 1765, "A native of America who cannot read or write is as rare an appearance as . . . a comet or an earthquake." Alexis de Tocqueville, visiting America in the 1830s at a time when many locales had no public schools observed that primary education is within reach of all.

New York teacher and author John Taylor Gatto observed:

"By preventing a free market in education, a handful of social engineers . . . has ensured that most of our children will not have an education, even though they may be thoroughly schooled."

Government schools are constantly justified by their ideals, regardless of the violence and incompetence of public schools themselves. But judging public schools solely by the rhetoric of politicians and educators is like discussing monarchies and talking only of the ideal of an omnibenevolent king. The mythology of public schools has endowed the school system with superior rights over both parents and children.

Mr. Bovard is the author of *\*Lost Rights: The Destruction of American Liberty\** (St. Martin's Press 1994) and *\*Shakedown: How the Government Screws You From A to Z\** (Viking Press, 1995). This article is reprinted from the July 1997 issue of *\*Freedom Daily\**, published by The Future of Freedom Foundation, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA 22030. All rights reserved.

## Just say yes to school choice.

## U.S. voters are astute

By Rich Osness

An acquaintance sent me an article originally printed in "The Economist", a London magazine, that stated that the middle class in the U.S. gets more from the government than they pay. My friend suggested that this might be a reason Libertarians don't win. He's partly right.

Many of us do believe that the system either favors us or can be made to favor us at the expense of everybody else. Many of us do believe in a system of tax collection and government that results in each of us getting more than we pay. If we believe this, we are voting for politicians that tell us that they can create substance, goods and services, out of thin (or hot) air. Either that or we are voting for those that tell us they will shaft the other guy and pass the savings on to us.

It's not true. It's physically impossible. In redistributing the benefits created by our private sector economy, government does nothing to create wealth. Government consumes wealth. It can never give back as much in benefits as it takes in taxes. Unless you really are one of the top dogs in the contributor category you will only get back a portion of what you pay. Even the people with the greatest political clout end up with less than they would have in a truly free and prosperous economy.

The article in "The Economist" is wrong. The middle class does not benefit from our large and oppressive government. ■

## Join the Libertarian Party

## "Cost of government day" on July 3rd is real independence day, say Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC —

Never mind the 4th of July—Americans should celebrate the 3rd of July with festive fireworks and public parades, the Libertarian Party said today.

That's because July 3rd is "Cost of Government Day" — the day on which the average American has finally earned enough income to pay his or her share of government spending and regulation.

"On July 3rd, we can finally say: Free at last, thank God, we're free at last," said the party's national chairman, Steve Dasbach. "After working

183 days—more than half the year!—we're finally free from the burden of a government that spends too much, taxes too much, and regulates too much.

Cost of Government Day is calculated by the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation (ATRF), a non-profit, non-partisan think tank based in Washington, DC. The date is computed by adding the total spending of government (local, state, and federal), plus the cost of regulation.

In all, the ATRF estimates the cost of government in 1997 at more than \$3.5 trillion. Of that amount:

\* \$1.757 trillion is spent by

## Taxation is force

By Rich Osness

When taxation is described as the use of force, someone frequently responds that "We all agreed—" or something to that effect. In last year's legislative campaign, an incumbent used a similar line on more than one occasion when she tried to justify forcibly taking property from one person for the



Rich Osness

benefit of another.

This simply isn't true. We didn't all agree. Furthermore, a simple majority of opinion, if it did exist, does not make it morally correct.

Taxation and government action would not be necessary if ALL parties agreed to a transaction. It would occur voluntarily.

Taxation does involve the use or threat of force. Does anyone really believe that our tax system is entirely voluntary?

We are now left with the argument that the majority decided on this course of action for the good of society. This is a very dangerous line of thought. Our entire system of government was designed from the beginning to protect the rights and property of the minority. The majority has less need of protection.

If the majority decides to take some or all of the property of the minority and divide it up among themselves or otherwise make use of it without the consent of the minority,

does that make it right? Let's see how this works if we break it down to its simplest form.

Suppose a society consisted of five people. Two people had most of the assets. The three people with little assets decided the proper course of action would be to pool everybody's assets and divide them equally. If the two people who had more assets resisted, they would be forced to comply or be killed. Is this morally right?

There is another problem with this system of government that is as serious as the ethical question. From a purely practical point of view it doesn't work. The loss of the right to retain or dispose of property as one sees fit results in a much lower quality of life for everyone. If the minority has no "right" to retain what they have worked to produce, they will produce less. The proof is the Soviet Union and East European utopias.

Community property works only in a very small or totally voluntary society. In larger societies it can be enforced only with the most brutal of governments such as in China.

Funding is necessary to provide any government services, police and fire protection, civil courts and national defense. To the extent that these services cannot be voluntarily funded, the taxes levied to provide them should be carefully deliberated.

The people who formed our national government were aware of this. They gave the federal government very little authority to tax the citizens and political subdivisions, the states. The authority to levy taxes for the benefit of society was reserved for the more local levels of government. This resulted in the most prosperous society the world has ever seen. ■

## The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx

We were warned of the general procedure and the specific measures for a successful communist or socialist revolution by Karl Marx, the father of communism, in 1848:

We have seen . . . that the first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to establish democracy.

The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest by degrees all capital from the bourgeoisie; to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the state . . .

These measures will, of course, be different in different countries.

Nevertheless, in the most advanced countries the following will be pretty generally applicable:

1. Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
3. Abolition of all right of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Centralization of credit in the hands of the state by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly.
6. Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the state.
7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the state; the bringing into cultivation of waste lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.
8. Equal obligation of all to labor. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.
9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.
10. Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of child factory labor in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, etc.

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30 S. Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y. 10533.

But instead of being depressed by the amount of time they've spent working for politicians, Americans should use July 3rd to declare a new kind of independence, urged Dasbach.

"Instead of celebrating the Declaration of Independence from an oppressive foreign government more than 200 years ago, we should use this day to declare our independence from the spendthrift politicians of 1997," he said.

According to the ATRF, the average American will work 50.8 days this year to pay for state and local spending; 40.8 days for federal regulations; 31.6 days for Social Security and Medicare; 14.2 days for national defense; 13.8 days for interest on the national debt; and 31.2 days for all other federal programs.

"One way to do this: Vote for Libertarian candidates. If Libertarians were in Congress, you'd see the Cost of Government Day rapidly moving backwards," Dasbach

# American Heritage Rivers: a environmentalist trojan horse

appearing in the 7/25/97 Washington Times:

By David W. Almasi

Director of Media Relations  
Defenders of Property Rights

President Bill Clinton's plan to designate ten major waterways as "American Heritage Rivers" is a federal Trojan Horse calculated to trick local communities into turning over control of local affairs to federal bureaucrats.

Justified as a program that builds on existing federal/local partnerships, President Clinton claims that his American Heritage Rivers Initiative will simply provide "special recognition and focused federal support" for an initial ten "river communities." What the administration fails to answer, however, is why another layer of bureaucracy is needed to foster something that is already happening spontaneously. The administration's intention-

al vagueness on costs and regulatory impact only heightens suspicion.

Under the stated objectives of the Initiative, which was first announced in the President's 1997 State of the Union address, thirteen federal departments and agencies will be brought in to provide services to designated river communities. A bureaucrat called a "river navigator" will be assigned to each river with the duty of guiding local officials through the plethora of federal programs. Hence, all decisions - local or otherwise - regarding designated rivers will have to flow through the river navigator. The other potential for mischief lies in the very creation of yet another federal land-use program of breathtaking proportions. Forty percent of the continental United States is the watershed for the Mississippi River, and the river navigator will control the entire watershed.

While the administration claims that communities will decide the extent of federal involvement - and that they can even "opt out" of the Initiative at any time - Congressman Chris Cannon of Utah expressed his skepticism during a recent House Resources Committee oversight hearing. He said the Initiative is justified on very few facts and a great deal of just "trust us." When it comes to land-use policy, trust is not a commodity this administration possesses in abundance. Congressman Cannon himself was propelled into office on a tide of anti-Clinton sentiment after state and private property rights in his district were extinguished when the President unilaterally created the Escalante National Monument last year. The Escalante designation, planned in secret and without the consultation of local politicians or landowners, shows how quickly the federal govern-

ment can move in and take control of local decision-making.

Administration officials exhibited little respect for local autonomy over local affairs. When asked if Utah could opt out of the President's Escalante designation, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt said he would not rescind the monuments' designation or halt the introduction of grizzly bears to Idaho despite overwhelming local opposition to both federal actions.

Furthermore, White House environmental czar Katy McGinty refused to commit to prohibiting river navigators from using their influence to affect local zoning decisions.

How, by the way, will the administration pay for the Initiative? The proposal calls for hiring at least ten river navigators with salaries of approximately \$100,000 a year apiece. This and related expenses currently total around \$5 mil-

lion - an allocation not found in the administration's 1997 or 1998 budgets. Secretary Babbitt says the money to pay for the Initiative has been found in existing programs. This newfound reserve of money seemed peculiar to Congresswoman Linda Smith of Washington, who reminded the secretary of the many times he has come to Congress to plead poverty and the need for more money to fund his cash-strapped programs.

In addition, this program will not stop at ten rivers, since plans call for the addition of more rivers. This means more navigators, more staffs, and a bigger drain on existing resources. Essentially, it will result in a de facto Heritage Rivers agency to regulate everything from river traffic to private riverbank properties.

The creation of new bureaucratic hurdles that strip the powers delegated to local governments by

transferring them to Washington will never create greater efficiency. Furthermore, we do not need a federal nanny state to a working federal/local partnership already in place. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative is just the sort of stealth regulation we need to avoid. ■

Defenders of Property Rights is the only national legal defense foundation dedicated exclusively to the protection of private property rights, and has been active in analyzing the impact of proposed state and federal laws and regulations.

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## Good news, the sky isn't falling

By Rich Osness

The bad news is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has lied and millions of people are going to die. While apologies are in fashion, maybe President Clinton (or Reagan or Bush) can apologize for this while he's at it.

First, the sky isn't falling. The "hole" in the ozone layer over Antarctica is not really a hole. It's a thin spot. Very little, if any, ozone is actually lost. Most of the "missing ozone" is found in a thicker band around the "hole". All of the changes in its size and thickness are seasonal. It shrinks as well as expands. It is not growing.

Furthermore, the only danger it represents is a slightly increased risk of skin cancer for those engaged in long term sunbathing in Antarctica. It is less dangerous than exposing your skin at the equator, except for frostbite.

Within the scientific community, there are two widely accepted explanations for chlorine being lofted into the stratosphere. Neither has anything to do with refrigeration, aerosol cans or air conditioning.

The most common cause is chlorine picked up from the oceans and blown into the upper atmosphere by the winds.

The wind and oceans in that part of the earth are very favorable for this effect. This makes a lot

more sense than saying it is caused by industrial activity when it is the spot on the earth least effected by industrial activity.

The other big producer of airborne chlorine is volcanic activity. Mt. Erebus in Antarctica spews a thousand tons of chlorine into the air every day, more than all of the industrial activity in the world, right under the "hole".

We haven't caused the "hole" and we can't fix it, unless we figure out a way to put a giant plug in a volcano or cover the Pacific Ocean. (Actually, most scientists don't think even these massive amounts of chlorine have a long term effect on the ozone layer.) Our aerosol cans, air conditioning and refrigeration systems didn't cause it.

The obvious question is: Why doesn't the scientific community come forward and tell the EPA? They have. The EPA knows. They have always known. Scientists from many U.S. government agencies (such as NASA and NOAA) have told them. Like any good regulatory agency, they have suppressed or ignored all evidence and studies that do not support expanding their authority.

What about the scientists that agree with the EPA that CFC's are destroying the ozone in the stratosphere? Well, there are a lot of government

research grants and jobs out there if you are trying to prove the right things.

Aren't refrigeration and air conditioning luxuries we can do without? Aren't there substitutes available? Yes, there are substitutes. But, they are more expensive, less effective and quite possibly more harmful to the environment.

Refrigeration may be a luxury, but it's a luxury that extends life. Many third world countries are just starting to see the benefits of refrigerating their food and medicine. Food and drugs have a funny way of helping people to live longer than the EPA just can't understand.

The EPA ban on freon has resulted in a world wide ban on some of the most beneficial technology available. Millions of people are going to die needlessly.

The effect of man made chemicals on the ozone layer is insignificant. The ozone layer is not decreasing. Banning CFC's world wide will cost billions of dollars and cause the deaths of millions of people denied the benefits of less expensive refrigeration.

While President Clinton is in the mood to apologize for the actions past administrations, maybe he can apologize for this. ■

## Ethanol subsidies typify our political system

By Rich Osness

Supporters of ethanol subsidies have run out of excuses. The only remaining reasons for politicians to continue tax breaks for ethanol blended fuel or taxpayer paid subsidies for ethanol plants is to buy votes or to exchange for campaign contributions or other benefits less likely to be publicly acknowledged.

When ethanol first came on the scene as an answer to the "oil shortage", more than twenty years ago, there was a small group of radicals that said ethanol used more energy to produce than it provided. Their numbers added up and made a lot of sense.

We preferred to ignore them because we would rather give our money to a midwestern corn farmer than a Middle Eastern Sheik. Besides, ethanol boosted the octane of fuels.

There was one slight problem. We got significantly lower gas mileage and our vehicles had less power. How could this be? We tried to ignore the obvious. Alcohol burns at a much lower temperature than gasoline.

Still, it was good for the environment. It burned cleaner. It seemed to make sense. Adding an oxygenate to the fuel would cause more complete combustion.

Then the studies started coming. In 1989 the Arizona Department of

Transportation reported on a test involving a million miles of testing with state owned vehicles. The study showed no decrease in emissions and some increases in emissions of carbon monoxide. The National Academy of Sciences reported in December, 1991, that ethanol blended fuels "would not achieve significant air-quality benefits, and, in fact, would likely be detrimental."

There were only three remaining reasons to promote ethanol through subsidies, preferential tax treatment and regulation. Ethanol legislation produces votes, campaign contributions and other special favors with monetary value for the legislators.

These are common (but not exactly ethical) reasons for enacting legislation.

Finally, just this year, a few bold congressmen have risked the anger of their fellow legislators to tell the truth. Ethanol blended fuels are more likely to increase air pollution than to reduce it. Ethanol production uses more fossil fuels than it saves.

Most national legislators are upset about these revelations and the U.S. House and Senate will continue the subsidies and preferential tax treatment for ethanol fuels. They have even added outright bans of fuels not containing ethanol.

We are told that ethanol subsidies produce

jobs and help farmers by raising corn prices. That's nonsense. Ethanol subsidies take money from productive activity and direct it to nonproductive activity. This raises ALL prices and costs jobs. This hurts farmers as well as the rest of us. Can anyone explain how higher labor, equipment and fuel costs and higher taxes help farmers?

There is only one group that profits from this foolishness, the ethanol producers who have purchased our state and federal legislators.

Ethanol subsidies are one of the reasons DuWayne Andreas of Archer Daniels Midland has contributed millions to the Democrats and the Republicans. (Sugar price controls are the other.) ADM produces about half of the ethanol in the U.S.

Rich Osness lives in Austin, Minnesota, where he has owned and operated a business for the past nineteen years. This business is subjected to the laws of more than twenty states. As a result, he has more government experience than most government officials.

He was a Libertarian candidate for the State Senate in 1996. He received the highest percentage of the vote of any Libertarian candidate in Minnesota. n

# State takes over land use planning in "compromise bill"

Report prepared by the  
Land Rights Task Force  
Thanks to Ken Nebel for  
forwarding

Some amazing restrictions on land use are being proposed by the no-growth crowd. Better be aware of this -- it could be in the future that your main remaining right to your land will be to pay the government 2-5% of its market value each year in taxes! Note particularly the incredible taking of power away from cities, townships and counties and putting it all into the hands of the Crowd in St. Paul and their minions.

Original Hottinger Bill,  
SF 820

This legislation would establish into law four primary policy changes regarding the use of public and private land in Minnesota:

A. State government in Minnesota would gain ultimate regulatory and zoning authority over the use of all land, public and private, in Greater Minnesota. The state would oversee and approve the preparation of a comprehensive, statewide land use plan. This is a fundamental shift of power from local governments to state government.

B. Numerous counties outside the metropolitan area, those identified as "growth counties," would be required by the state to establish growth boundaries around their urban areas, subject to the approval of the state.

C. Beyond those growth boundaries, the land would be declared permanently rural or agricultural. The land could never be allowed any future use other than its specific designation. Providing municipal services (e.g., roads, water, schools, sewage, water treatment, sidewalks, transportation) to those areas would be unlawful. Any development of that land exceeding one dwelling per 40 acres would be unlawful.

D. Taxes (impact fees) could be imposed by local governments on new development to cover the entire estimated present and future costs of development, such as: increased transportation (including roads and public transit), water supply and distribution, schools, sewers, parks, recreational facilities, law enforcement, fire departments, lighting, government administrative and legal fees, etc.

Growth Counties would be defined as:

1. being outside the 7-county metro area, and,

2. having a population growth at least 1% higher than the average growth of all state counties, and,

3. having a population density of more than 50 people per square mile. While the publicly stated purpose of the land use bill is to control urban sprawl, SF820 addresses these valid concerns with unacceptable solutions. First, SF820 is a sweeping shift of authority from local government to state government. In it state central planners are granted the authority to impose the plan that they want. Local authorities would only retain the right to adopt a state plan or to have the state plan adopted on their behalf.

This shift is a direct blow to our freedom to govern ourselves. The government entities that are closest to the people, the ones that must be held directly accountable, would not make the decisions. In so doing, basic democratic principles of self-government would be weakened.

Secondly, and more importantly, this bill transfers authority not only from local to state government, but also from Greater Minnesota to metro legislators. Metro legislators, now the majority in St. Paul, are essentially empowered through SF820 to impose their will upon all of Greater Minnesota.

The metro majority would be able to dictate regulation, including zoning and planning policy, for all of the land and all of the communities within Greater Minnesota. Some examples of the kind of central state planning SF820 establishes within each urban area in Greater Minnesota are:

1. The kind of transit that communities in Greater Minnesota shall have;

2. The kind and amount of public parks and recreational areas that Greater Minnesota communities shall create and maintain;

3. The kinds of housing and the nature of the residential and business districts that Greater Minnesota communities shall have;

4. The manner in which all of the above are planned and the places that they are to be located within each Greater Minnesota community; and

5. The establishment of what state central planners consider proper racial and economic diversity and balance within Greater Minnesota communities.

Because these new laws would govern only Greater Minnesota, and

because the effective majority in the legislature now exists outside of Greater Minnesota, metro legislators would dictate policy without ever having to face the voters whose land they are governing. Self government (democracy) would be lost.

A third concern of SF820 is the use of impact fees on new development to finance the entire costs, present and future, of growth. Lost in this legislation is the recognition that, while growth often creates problems that must be addressed, for many Greater Minnesota counties and municipalities, growth expands a community's tax

base, increases its work force, and builds its mainstreet businesses. SF820 shifts the total financial burden of growth onto new homeowners, while none of the financial advantages new home ownership brings to a community in Greater Minnesota are acknowledged.

The costs of new, single family homes would rise dramatically with the use of these impact fees, and, very often, they would rise prohibitively. Yet these same taxes would not be assessed against low income housing projects mandated by the centralized state government planning agencies.

In other words, only private citizens who wish to build homes outside the metro area would be financially penalized for development. Government housing projects, built at taxpayer expense and imposed by state central planners, would be free of that financial burden. And since government housing projects would not be producing property tax revenue, the taxes of all other residents would rise to service them.

And finally, SF820 mandates minimum population densities in rural and agricultural areas to no more than one dwelling per 40 acres. It does this without any form of compensa-

tion to the owners. The land is basically impounded, that is, it is set aside for uses deemed appropriate by the state central planners. It does so without consent of the owners and without assuming responsibility for consequent financial losses, which, in most cases, would be substantial.

This policy directly challenges the very concept of private ownership of land. Article I, Section 15, of the Minnesota State Constitution, declares land within Minnesota borders to be "allodial," that is, free and independently owned. Section 13 states unequivocally that "private property

order to receive state tax dollars (grants), these plans must meet certain criteria. They must establish growth boundaries, and they must not be inconsistent with the planning goals listed in SF820. Counties and municipalities lose their grant money if they deviate from guidelines set forth by the state planners.

In other words, this is an income redistribution plan that channels general tax dollars generated by all counties into local governments

are approved by the state central planners, which, among other things:

(a.) identify growth boundaries,

(b.) zone land outside growth boundaries as permanently rural or agricultural,

(c.) restrict population in the areas outside the growth boundaries to levels acceptable to the state planners,

(d.) provide adequate low income housing,

(e.) provide transportation plans that use what state planners consider proper public transit at a reasonable cost and that discourage the use of cars,

(f.) protect and create what state planners consider proper parks and recreational areas,

(g.) develop and use open spaces subject to state planners' approval,

(h.) integrate all income groups and ages into residential planning, and

(i.) create beautiful public spaces.

In other words, the state planners will essentially do the planning.

The original land use bill, SF820, was not passed into law in the 1997 legislative session. But SF738, the bill that is called a compromise, was passed into law, and it is no compromise. It is the same basic plan as SF820 with an incremental approach.

SF738 is a blueprint for the transfer of local government authority to state central planning agencies as laid out more clearly in SF820. These state planning agencies, bureaucracies removed from local citizens and their interests, can be run by the larger metro interests while Greater Minnesota citizens exert little influence.

The direction of this legislation is crystal clear.

Authors: SF 820

Authors: SF 738

Senator Hottinger (DFL)

Senator Hottinger (DFL)

Senator Dille (R)

Senator Dille (R)

Senator Flynn (DFL)

Senator Morse (DFL)

Senator Pappas (DFL)

Senator Kelley, S.P. (DFL)

Senator Wiener (DFL)

Senator Vickerman (DFL)

These pilot areas must create plans that



Cottonwood trees along the Minnesota River, between Belle Plain and Shakopee July 1997.

The lower, darker part of the trunks indicates the height of the flood

base, increases its work force, and builds its mainstreet businesses. SF820 shifts the total financial burden of growth onto new homeowners, while none of the financial advantages new home ownership brings to a community in Greater Minnesota are acknowledged.

Why should we care if the Constitution is violated? The preamble to the Minnesota Constitution states the one and only purpose for our Constitution is protecting our freedom. When the Constitution is violated, our freedom is diminished.

## "Compromise" bill (SF738)

SF738 is the so-called "compromise" legislation that was finally rolled into an omnibus funding bill (SF1905) and signed into law. (Article I, Section 11, and Article 4) This legislation accomplishes three primary purposes:

1. It provides state grant money to counties and municipalities which create county and municipal land use plans that are to be approved by the state central planners. In

the St. Cloud, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns County area, and three additional counties not yet selected.

These pilot areas must create plans that

## Libertarian Party of Minnesota upcoming events

Sunday August 17

Cedarfest on the West Bank - Minneapolis

Thurs. Aug. 21 - Mon. Sept. 1  
Minnesota State Fair

Labor Day weekend 1997  
Libertarian Victory 2000 in Philadelphia

September 9 Tuesday  
Local primaries in Minneapolis & St. Paul  
Please Vote for Bob Odden, Sam Huston and  
Anthony Sanders

March or April 1998  
Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention

July 2-5, 1998  
Libertarian Party National Conventionin Wash., DC

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Minneapolis, MN 55458-0774  
612 874-8531

## Libertarian World Wide Web Sites:

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's  
World Wide Web (WWW)  
Home Page is at:

<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's  
listserver:

**minnlib-**  
**announce@esosoft.com**

National Libertarian Party World  
Wide Web site:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

Online Libertarian Party News:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lpn/>

Libertarian State Party Information:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

Online Libertarian Party Platform:  
<http://www.lp.org/lp/platform/>

World's Smallest Political Quiz:  
<http://www.self-gov.org/lp->

## Weekly TV Show **LIBERTY**

Libertarian  
Party of MN's  
1/2 hour cable  
access show  
on Metro  
Cable  
Network  
(MCN)  
Channel 6.  
Weekly on  
Sundays at  
11:30 AM  
(repeated at  
4:00 PM on  
Sundays)

## Really big libertarian fun pig-roast and potluck

On Saturday September 20, 1997 Noon-Dark

At Dennis Cook House in Wyoming, MN

off 35W on Highway 22

Meet Libertarian party candidates

Larry Fuhol and Eric Johnson

Meet fellow libertarians from

Anoka, Chisago, Isanti and Washington counties

Call Jeff Robb to RSVP and directions

434-9759 before 8 PM

## Outreach report

By Eric Johnson,  
Outreach committee chair

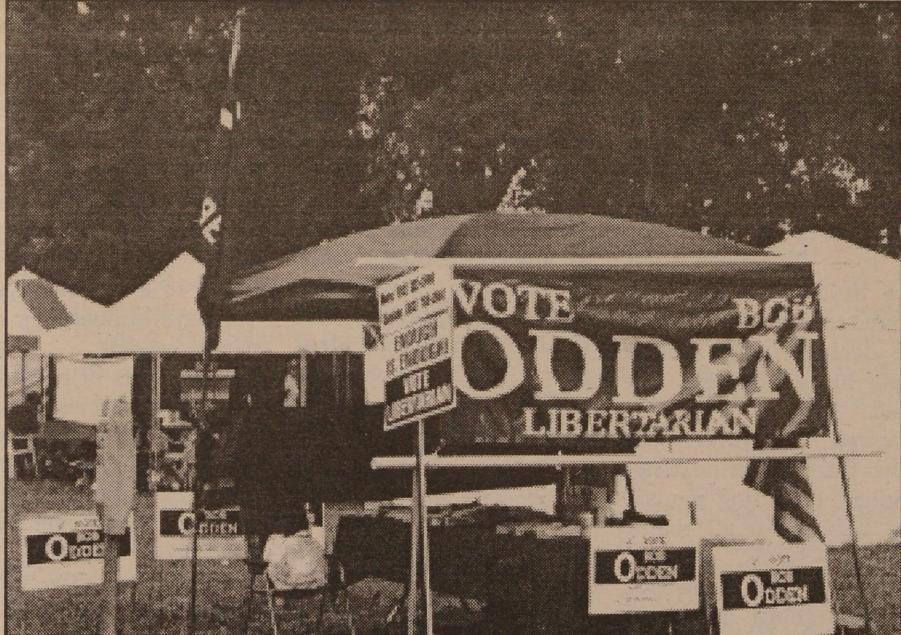
ty affiliates up and running, so that county  
affiliates can have a booth at their own  
county fairs, local gun shows, and other  
local events. If you are interested in helping  
get your county LP affiliate organized  
call Charles Test at 874-8531 or me at 436-  
8183.

### Cable Television

We have two excellent series running  
on Metro Cable Network channel 6 in the  
upcoming months. "Free to Choose", by  
Nobel prize winning economist Milton  
Friedman is a 10 part series about free markets  
and individual liberty. In six episodes  
"The New Enlightenment" by the Reason  
Foundation addresses the failures of  
socialism and investigates how limited  
government can be achieved.

Member Nick Nelson has completed  
editing the state convention tapes, and  
they will be played on MCN Ch. 6 late this  
summer or fall. Anyone with cable television  
in the twin city metro area can see our  
program "Liberty" Sundays at 11:30 am on  
channel 6. The program is replayed at 4:00  
pm Sundays. ■

We are in the process of getting coun-



The LP of MN's booth at a Gay Pride 1997.  
Really big fun "Flexing for Bob" walking down Hennepin Avenue in the  
parade. Some outreach got done in spite of the rains.

## Cable access systems running **LIBERTY**

Metro Cable Network Ch. 6 Sundays 11:30 AM & 4 PM

St. Paul: Mondays 9 PM & Saturdays 10:30 AM

Stillwater: Wednesdays 7 PM & Fridays 10 PM

Minneapolis Channel 33

Richfield-Edina-Eden Prairie (Check local listings)

Austin/Albert Lea (Check local listings)

Cloquet-Carlton (Check local listings)

Cottage Grove (Check local listings)

Duluth (Check local listings)

Madison (Check local listings)

## Future outlaws of Minneapolis

By Charles Test

I didn't know what to expect when Bob Odden, Minneapolis City Council candidate Ward 9 Libertarian Party and Reform Party endorsed, and I recently attended a Powderhorn Home-based Business Network (PHBN) meeting. Bob had told me the Minneapolis City Council was planning on passing a new and complex home-based business ordinance. About thirty self-employed business people who work out of their homes attended the meeting. Minneapolis city council-members Lisa McDonald and Kathy Thurber also attended. Knowing what the City Council had done to drive small landlords out of business, I feared the worse for any self-employed person in Minneapolis. My fears were well founded.

Michelle J. Bloom of Creative Business Consulting spoke. She had worked with the Minneapolis planning department for three years helping to write a new ordinance only to have it ignored by the Minneapolis City Council at the last minute. At this meeting we learned that the ordinance had already been passed and takes effect on September 30, 1997. There had been only one public hearing and somehow the City "forgot" to inform Michelle J. Bloom, the home-based business spokes-person the planning department had worked with for three long years. Hearing no public opposition, because of little or no public notice about the ordinance, the City Council went ahead and passed it.

The ordinance runs over three pages, with twenty-three subsections. The subsections ban employees, interior alterations to your home, dictate the size of signs, dictate the axle size of vehicles delivering to your business, limit business hours to 9 AM-6 PM, and limit customers to not more than three at a time and five per day among other things.

At the PHBN meeting someone asked: Why was this ordinance passed? Bloom's reluctant answer was to protect existing commercial businesses from home-based busi-

ness competition, as she interpreted the author of the ordinance changes council-member Pat Scott. Quite a protection racket Minneapolis has. They protect all kinds of occupations and businesses by limiting competition. Limited occupational or business licenses and business regulations both present large obstacles for the new little business on the block to get started. The skilled trades, taxis, buses, public schools and now larger commercial businesses all benefit when the government picks them as the winners and gives them protection from competition or a monopoly, anybody who comes later too bad.

I suspect that this ordinance is a precursor to occupational licensing of various home-based businesses. Once licenses are required a regulated monopoly is frequently on the way. The licensing boards are often made up of members of the regulated trades. They want to create barriers to new businesses to protect the jobs and wages of their friends. In San Diego, California unlicensed hair-braiders are up against irrelevant hair-styling board requirements that cost over \$5,000 in training. In New York City private van services, that transport low-income workers to suburban jobs, have to fight the Transport Workers Union and the New York City Council. In Minneapolis any and every self-employed venture is fair game for entry restrictions, regulation and licensing. The irony is these "takers" are hurting themselves. Like trade protectionism, occupational licensing prevents healthy adaptation to changing conditions by the protected industries. We all lose because innovation is squashed, fewer jobs are created, fewer productive ventures happen, fewer people become self-sufficient and prices are higher for everyone. It's a net loss for everyone.

Think of the unethical nature of this ordinance. This ordinance makes a formerly peaceful lawful business out of compliance and illegal overnight. What should home-based businesses do when liability insurance time comes? Their insurance contracts

say they must follow local laws. What to do? How about the Catch 22 of employees versus independent contractors and the IRS & Minneapolis banning home-based business employees? Who wants to do business with being technically illegal hanging over your head? You'd be at the mercy of an angry neighbor, spouse, ex-friend... who might threaten to turn you in. When people made these points to Council-members McDonald and Thurber both said the points had never occurred to them.

This is not about backyard car repair. Yes, every council-member will cite one really bad backyard car mechanic once in their ward. How does this relate to outlawing evening piano lessons in your home? I just haven't heard of or experienced any irresponsible home-based businesses in all my years.

I feel this ordinance is all about control and money. Home-based businesses are small and flexible. It's hard to enforce every regulation and to collect every possible federal-state-county-city tax or fee from them as long as they are small. But, please remember, most businesses start small and get bigger if that is the owner's desire and the will of the marketplace. Working at home is often the only affordable way to get a small business started and to juggle a home life at the same time. Being home-based often only lasts until the business gets off the ground and can afford to move to bigger offices in a commercial area.

**This ordinance is just another way of keeping low-income people dependent on government handouts by making self-employed independence and/or having employees too expensive and troublesome to pursue for the average person. It's also another prime example of how when politicians pick the winners and losers in society, everybody loses. n**

(Also see "Garage Logic" by Monika Bauerlein CITY PAGES 7/23/97 p 6.)  
(Creative Business Consulting Michelle J. Bloom 612 788-8877 in Minneapolis)

states, there are already more than 162,000 registered Libertarians in 28 states around the country - a number which has skyrocketed by 49% in just two years.

## House of Horrors

By Bob Odden

City officials on 7/10/97 claim to have killed the spirit of Freddie Kruger. The story goes that the neighborhood couldn't sleep at night because of all the noisy, ghastly, haunting shrieks emanating from its sturdy walls. There were rumors of people being slashed, or at least injured, if they came to close to the building. Others were injected with drugs, and left to wander around like crazed zombies, reminding brave people living in the building's evil shadow that they might be next if they weren't careful.

Finally, after many neighborhood meetings, a torch bearing mob descended on city hall, demanding that Freddie's spirit be laid to rest. The few people left in the building were freed while the city tried to think of what to do. No city official remembers this ever happening before. There was no plan for this kind of

thing. Finally, timid city officials thought of a plan.



photo by Jeffrey A. Austin

**Bob Odden for  
MPLS City Council**

They got a monstrous backhoe, with a reach long enough to put the operator on the next block. They then tapped the building with the backhoe. When the spirit didn't lash out at them, they hit the building harder. Then they got really brave, and struck the building so hard it fell into its dark cavernous basement. The onlookers, who were still afraid, gave soft spoken cheers from a safe distance. When the danger

appeared to be past, the city officials came up to the building and reminded the citizens that their lives would not be possible if it were not for them. Then the building at 1030 Morgan Avenue North was hauled off to a secure burial pit. (But now that I think about it, all the problems went away once the people living there were set free by the city.)

What has the city learned from this? That if you destroy all the potential mass murdering buildings in the city, out of the devastation will come a tranquil spirit known presently only by the homeless. ■

Bob Odden is the Libertarian/Reform Party candidate for Minneapolis City Council Ward #9. Lock-up behavior, not buildings.  
3752 - 16th AVE So Apt #1  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
724-5526

## We ARE working more for less

By Rich Osness

An articulate, well written letter to the editor of a small town daily was responding to the lament of an earlier writer about the difficulties of the elderly living on a fixed income. The writer of the second letter was a mother from a typical working family, approaching the peak of their productive years but still struggling to make ends meet.

The mother offered no solutions. The elderly man didn't either. I have one. This solution will not provide the Utopia that we have often been promised but it will halt the slide into chaos that we have now.

The problem, as she stated, is everything costs more and we have to work longer and harder to get it. There is no sense of security because no matter how much we save for our retirement or for emergencies there may not be enough.

It is true that we are working harder for less. We have a problem in this country that consumes a growing part of our productivity every year. This "problem" takes a steadily growing part of our incomes and drives up the

cost of everything we buy. The problem is our government.

The U.S. Government spends \$1.7 trillion dollars a year on our behalf. That's over \$6,000 per person per year, or more than \$24,000 per year for the typical family of four. The Minnesota state legislature is currently working on a budget of more than \$10 billion dollars per year. That's more than \$2,000 per year per person or more than \$10,000 for this typical family. If your family is average, you are paying 30 to 35,000 dollars per year for state and federal government. This does not include the cost of local government.

This is money taken from our paychecks, taken from our employers that might otherwise be used to pay us and built into the price of everything we buy. In total, government consumes almost half of what we earn.

Taxes and government spending are only the direct cost of government. In addition, both the state and federal government impose regulatory burdens on our employers that result in lower wages and salaries. This regulatory burden also increases the

cost of everything we buy. The direct and indirect cost of government is going up every year. We are all paying for it in lower wages, higher prices for everything we buy, less real return on our investments and, of course, higher taxes.

The solution is really quite simple. Eliminate large parts of the state and federal governments. Repeal the many laws that strangle our economic activity and take such a huge portion of what we produce.

Our elected representatives arrive in our state or national capitols with the belief that they can serve us best by taking a little from many to give a lot to a few. We ask them to do this. They have done this so often they are now taking almost half of what we produce and consuming most of it in the process of returning very little.

It's our fault. Anything we ask government to do for us will cost us much more than if we did it for ourselves. Any restriction we ask government to put on our neighbors will end up hurting us as well. The more we ask the government to do for us the poorer we will be. ■

## How big is the Libertarian Party?

The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in America - and growing!

We're active in all 50 states, and there are hundreds of vigorous state,

county, and local Libertarian organizations. Despite unfair and restrictive ballot access laws passed by the Republicans and Democrats in many

## What is the \$25 membership fee for?

Your annual membership payment - which gets you a subscription to our monthly newspaper LP News - helps finance our work to spread the word

about the Libertarian Party. With your help, we can keep the media informed, run advertisements; send information to more Americans; support Libertarian can-

didates in winnable races, promote pro-freedom legislation, provide resources to our state organizations; and more!

# Have you ever felt like we're missing a piece of the puzzle?

Reviewed  
By Robert R. Smith

Libertarians have no shortage of material to read, from classical free-market texts to a regular flow of current books and magazines. We also have access to a continuing barrage of outrageous government activities.

Healing Our World by Dr. Mary J. Ruwart, is unlike anything else I've read. My initial reaction, soon after I began reading it, was that this is the way Libertarians should be speaking to the rest of the world.

Most Libertarians are justifiably angry about rights violations, government corruption, and the way our nation is being strangled by regulation and taxes. When we speak to

non-Libertarians, that anger tends to show to our listeners. We tend to speak abstractly about individual rights, which often fails to get our listeners excited.

Mary Ruwart's message is simply a better way of explaining what we all believe. Her message is that aggression does not work, no matter what the cause. That message is presented in a way that non-libertarians will understand clearly. It's presented with such gentleness and lack of threat that even those readers of opposite values are likely to be convinced.

Mary repeatedly uses the comparison between the way governmental actions work versus the way we all treat our neighbors... to illustrate that Americans approve of governmental actions on a massive scale that we

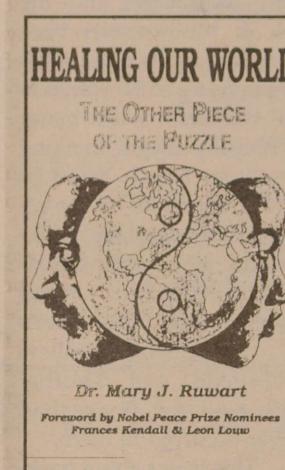
would never inflict on our own neighbors. Stealing from our neighbors through government programs is no less aggressive than stealing from them directly.

Dr. Ruwart addresses a wide range of world problems, convincingly explains the cause of each, and just as convincingly argues that each would not have occurred in a completely free society.

Andre Marrou, '92 Libertarian Presidential Candidate, says "Dr. Mary Ruwart is well on her way to becoming the Ayn Rand of the 90's".

Such praise may at first seem pretentious to Rand-followers, but my comment to Mary at our State Convention was little different from Marrou's... "Mary, I've always been a bit embarrassed to owe so

much of my personal philosophy to one woman, Ayn Rand, and now I'm beholden to still another



woman... you".

I think this book is extremely important for Libertarians. Give it to your friends and acquaintances who cannot bring themselves to join us... who cannot give up hoping for

results from government. Healing Our World will especially appeal to women. While we men scream about rights, Mary shows that genuine emotional concerns about such issues as poverty, crime, and education, when played out through government, are actually worsening the problems.

Mary keeps the meaning of the book's subtitle "The Other Piece of the Puzzle" a secret until very near the end of the book. I cannot do the same. Perhaps the most remarkable part of this book is its presentation of Restitution as a truly major solution; "righting wrongs to make victims whole again". I think you will be amazed at the results she projects from this simple concept.

I cannot emphasize too strongly that Mary has,

with restitution, truly put all of the pieces together. It is the piece that can make our "ideal society" work, and it is a solution that can make it possible for us to get from here to where we want to go. It's a piece of the puzzle that was omitted by our Founding Fathers, and even by Ayn Rand.

Healing Our World is available from the publisher, SunStar Press, P.O. Box 342, Kalamazoo, MI 49005-0342. Single copy price is \$14.95 plus 10% shipping. More information about the book and Dr. Ruwart is available at <http://look.net/ruwart>, including ordering information. Laissez Faire Books also has it available in their catalog, with a brief review by David Nolan. ■

## THE TROJAN PROJECT By Edmund Contoski

Reviewed  
By Rich Osness

I admit it. I'm an Edmund Contoski fan.

I'm also miffed. I wanted to write a review of his nonfiction book, *Makers and Takers*, but someone beat me to it, and that leaves me with *The Trojan Project*.

When I bought copies of both books, Mr. Contoski urged me to read *The Trojan Project* first. I didn't. I like nonfiction better than fiction. I wanted to get right into the heavy stuff.

He was right. The Trojan Project should be read first. It's a trap.

Mr. Contoski's first novel, *The Trojan Project*, is a high-tech mystery set in

Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. It has everything: suspense, violence and sex.

Don't worry. You can let your ten or eleven-year old read it. Even my Christian Conservative friends would find it morally enlightening for their children. This book may have trouble getting on the public school reading lists, but not because of gratuitous sex and violence.

Although it involves phenomena that do not exist, or at least have not yet been discovered, the plot is all too plausible. The central character, Don Emerson, is a libertarian computer engineer who discovers a strange phenomenon that affects his

family. His attempt to unravel this mystery leads him to the highest levels of government and scientific



research.

Summed up simply, it is an engrossing novel about one man's efforts to protect himself and his family while helping society in general as a consequence.

Edmund Contoski has spent much of his life promoting libertarian ideals, and his book is no different. There is plenty of suspense and mystery to keep the reader involved and libertarian philosophy is sprinkled liberally throughout.

Upon finishing *The Trojan Project* the reader has been through an intriguing novel and a short course on how our government started and how we got to where we are.

It's a trap. Put a few copies on the gift list for your friends who are apologists for big government. This is one libertarian book they will read and perhaps it will cause them to think.

As Don Emerson said in the last line of the book, "The rest is up to the

American people."

*The Trojan Project* (\$17.95, American Liberty Publishers) is available from Barnes & Noble and B. Dalton and book-stores or may be ordered by calling toll-free 1-800-205-8254. Mr. Contoski was one of the co-founders of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota twenty-five years ago and its first state chair.

Rich osness is an Austin, Minnesota, businessman. He was the Libertarian candidate for State Senate in 1996 and received the highest vote percentage of any Libertarian candidate in Minnesota. He writes frequently for the Austin Herald. ■

### Are Libertarians having an Impact on politics? Yes.

#### Tax reduction:

The Libertarian Party was instrumental in repealing the income tax in Alaska, and Libertarian legislators in New Hampshire were leaders in the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

#### Health care reform:

During the national debate over health care in 1993, the Libertarian Party released a comprehensive health care reform proposal which harnessed the power of the free market to reduce costs and increase consumer choice. The party also organized grassroots lobbying and public debates, and held private meetings with Congressmen to help turn the tide against any government takeover of America's health care system.

#### Choice in education:

The Libertarian Party has vigorously fought for free market reform in education to increase educational opportunities for all children. We've worked for referendums and sponsored legislation to return tax money to parents so they can choose the best school for their children - instead of being at the mercy of failing government schools.

#### Civil Liberties:

Libertarians are working to defend civil liberties. For example, a Libertarian State Representative in New Hampshire co-sponsored a bill to restrict the state's ability to seize property from people not convicted of any criminal offense.

On issue after issue, Libertarians are successfully defending the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, free trade, private charity, and individual liberty. ■

## Economics made interesting by Minnesota author

Reviewed  
By Rich Osness

Remember how the lettering on the end of the barn in George Orwell's "Animal Farm" evolved to suit the current needs of the ruling animals? Did you ever get the feeling that this was happening today, the feeling that our rulers were rewriting history or science to suit their needs of the moment?

I have.

Global warming or the greenhouse effect is a good example. I can remember being told (I believe by the same people touting the global warming disaster) that the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels would block out the sun causing a new ice age. The

sun's rays would be blocked, causing our crops to fail and the temperature to drop. The northern regions of the earth would become uninhabitable. The only question seemed to be whether we would starve

something that I know is not true but I just can't find the facts that will refute it. I have another life and I can't spend the time to search for old information that I would like.

The answer is "Makers and Takers" by Edmund Contoski. This book is recommended for purchase by the American Library Association's book list. Best of all, I've met Mr. Contoski. He is a tireless researcher, an interesting writer (How would I know?) and, best of all, a Minnesotan. Edmund has saved all of those clippings and reports for years.

"Makers and Takers" is a study of the economic history of the world and an extensively footnoted catalog of government failures

and free market successes throughout history.

Even if you have dozed off trying to read textbooks on economics, you will find this book either fascinating or infuriating. You won't be bored. You will no longer think of economics as the dismal science. Unless, of course, you consider what we have done to our economic situation in the past few decades dismal.

If you are a believer in the beneficence of an all controlling government, you will be either infuriated with frustration or devastated. His documentation is so complete and his logic is so clear that the truth is unavoidable.

Naturally, I loved it. Get a copy before our gov-

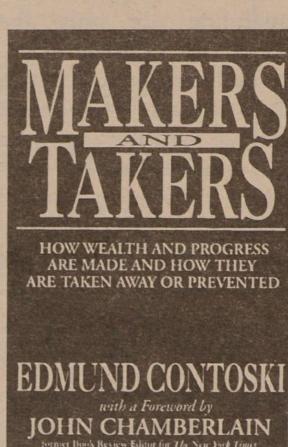
ernor or legislature bans it. There must be something in here they find obscene.

While I am recommending books, let's get back to "Animal Farm". Yes, I'm recommending a book by a socialist.

At the time he wrote it, George Orwell had just returned from the Spanish Civil War. He was still enamored with Socialism, but he had become greatly disenchanted with the current leadership in Russia.

"Animal Farm" is a story of the progression of the Soviet leadership. It could apply to the evolution of many societies, even ours. It's a short book and a quick read.

It deserves to be read more than once in a lifetime. ■



or freeze first.  
Frequently, I am told

# Cutting taxes is selfish

by Sheldon Richman

Washington is a land of grand farce. People here routinely say things that no one believes, not even the person saying it. They do things they know are absurd. They can't help it. To stop is to confess what cannot be confessed: that the political enterprise is just a big con game.

A classic example of what I mean took place a few months ago. There is talk in Washington of cutting the estate tax, which is more aptly dubbed the "death tax." Congressional Republicans are pushing the idea, and President Clinton has expressed some interest. But Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers criticized people who want to cut the tax. What he said was, When it comes to [cutting] the estate tax, there is no case other than selfishness.

Ouch! The S-word! The Republicans couldn't let that stand, and they quickly responded. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Mr. Summers "owes every American taxpayer an explanation for his unfair and irrational accusation that Republican efforts to cut taxes are motivated by selfishness."

Rep. John A. Boehner of Ohio, chairman of the House Republican Conference, said the remark illustrates "the arrogance of the liberal elite, who believe that government has some right to redistribute the fruits of a life's work."

"It sounds like a comment that people who believe in socialism would make," said House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer.

The business community also waxed indignant. The vice president of the National Federation of Independent Business, Dan Danner, said:

"We think it's pretty horrible when they imply that thousands of small business owners who just want to pass their business to their children are selfish. It certainly leaves us with serious concern that they don't understand the job-creating role that small business plays in America and in the economy."

U.S. Chamber of Commerce chief economist Martin Regalia said:

"There is a chance this year of creating a bipartisan approach to cutting taxes and balancing the budget. Instead, the administration comes out and throws bombs at the whole idea. Their response to everything is that it only helps the rich."

The charge of selfishness is so serious that, a day later, Mr. Summers actually apologized. "I should not have used the term 'selfishness' to characterize positions in the debate over estate taxes," he said. "There is room for honest disagreement on this issue. It is wrong to question the motives of others in policy and policy debates," he said. When White House spokesman Michael D. McCurry was asked whether he agreed with Mr. Summers' original remark, he said, "Clearly not."

Could a farce be more transparent? One gets the impression these are actors reading from a script. It is so predictable. Do Republicans and business lobbies really believe that reality is a malleable goo and that if they just refuse to pronounce the words, the facts will go away?

Lawrence Summers was basically right. Can we really take any Republican or businessman seriously who disputed him? Can we believe that Mr. Summers is sincerely regretful he said it? No one inside the Beltway takes any of this seriously. Neither should you.

Where Mr. Summers erred was in thinking there is something wrong with people wanting to keep their own money for personal "selfish" reasons. Need I say this? There is nothing wrong with that!

True, taxes hurt the economy. Therefore, when people keep their own money, it is good for everyone. But people like their taxes cut, first and foremost, because they want to control more of their own lives and belongings even when their lives are nearing an end. And it is not any less "selfish" to want to hand a legacy to one's children. What could be more "selfish" at the end of your life than to give your own children financial security while knowing that your life's work will live on? (Richard Dawkins' book *The Selfish Gene* comes to mind here.) Would you like to die knowing that your children will have to liquidate your achievement to feed the ravenous state?

In the private recesses of his own mind, every person knows why he and everyone else want to keep their money. But people haven't yet

acknowledged that there is no sin in that. The self is the thing in you that chooses and acts. It is you. That makes it the very fount of virtue. Let's stop apologizing.

The sanctimony of the GOP and business lobbies is shameful. Chairman Archer says only a socialist would condemn tax cutting as selfish. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, but socialism is the political system that outlaws self-interest. To frantically deny that someone wants a tax cut because of self-interest is to accord legitimacy to socialism. Ayn Rand used to say that in any argument, the more consistent of the adversaries will win. If you share socialism's premises while trying to oppose socialism, you will lose.

Apparently it's okay for the nonrich to be "selfish." If you propose a tax cut for them, you don't have to justify it in the name of the social good. The "rich" don't have the same right. I use quotation marks because your definition of rich will differ markedly from the government's definition. Henry J. Aaron, a well-respected economist at the Brookings Institution, made this clear in an article defending the estate tax entitled "Now's Hardly the Time to Favor the Richest Among Us." (As though there is ever such a time.) Mr. Aaron bemoans the growing gap between rich and poor and cannot understand why anyone is talking about cutting that tax. (The gap nonsense always neglects a critical fact: mobility through income levels.) Fewer than 2 per-

cent of dying Americans will have their estates taxed, he writes. An estate has to be larger than \$600,000. (That doesn't buy what it used to buy.) People can get around the tax by giving money away before the die.

Let's accept all this as true. So what? Part of the "American ethos," Mr. Aaron says, is that while people should be encouraged to work hard and save, they should be limited in how much "privilege" they can give to their progeny. That should be done, he adds, out of the "traditional American concern about undue concentration of economic or political power." So there it is. People who manage to create and accumulate more wealth than most are a threat. To whom? Well, that's never made too clear.

The entire case against the accumulation of wealth rests on an equivocal use of the word "power." Note that Mr. Aaron refers to "economic or political power," as though they are similar. But those two concepts should not share the genus "power." They are entirely different things. Political power is the barrel of a gun, the threat of force. Economic power is the barrel of a pen, the offer of value. Ironically, to diminish economic "power," we must expand political power. (Franz Oppenheimer and Albert Jay Nock long ago wrote of the tradeoff between social power and political power.) It is a bad bargain.

It is embarrassing to have to remind people of this in the United States of

America. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson singled out three natural rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The last phrase, appearing instead of "property," has prompted much discussion. I can't tell you what Jefferson was thinking. But here's a plausible theory: Property is already implicit in life and liberty. If you own your life and are free, you may use your belongings as you see fit. By specifying the pursuit of happiness, Jefferson might have been pointing out that the blessings of life and liberty need not be justified through selfless service. One's life and happiness on earth are justification enough.

Rand once wrote that when Republicans and conservatives, the putative friends of capitalism, defend liberty on the basis of self-sacrifice, they have surrendered to its avowed enemies and are merely suing for peace. With friends like that, does liberty need enemies?

Mr. Richman is vice president of policy affairs at The Future of Freedom Foundation and author of the forthcoming book \*Your Money Or Your Life: Why We Must Abolish the Income Tax.\* This article is reprinted from the August 1997 issue of \*Freedom Daily\*, published by The Future of Freedom Foundation, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA 22030. All rights reserved ■

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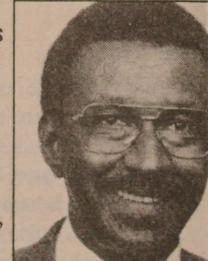
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# Whenever any form of government becomes destructive

FROM MOUNTAIN MEDIA  
By Vin Suprynowicz

Most Americans should be ashamed to celebrate the Fourth. What an inconvenient holiday the Fourth of July has become.

Oh, so long as we stick to grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, hauling the kids to the lake or the mountains, and winding up the day watching the fireworks as the Boston Pops plays the 1812—written by a subject of the czar to celebrate the defeat of our vital ally the French—we can usually manage to convince ourselves we still honor the same values that made July 4, 1776, a date which rings in history.

Great Britain taxed the colonists at far lower rates than Americans tolerate today—and never dreamed of granting government agents the power to search our private bank records to locate “unreported income.” Nor did the king’s ministers ever attempt to stack our juries by disqualifying any juror who refused to swear in advance to “leave your conscience outside and enforce the law as the judge explains it to you.”

The king’s ministers insisted the colonists were represented by Members of Parliament who had never set foot on these shores. Today, of course, our interests are “represented” by one of two millionaire lawyers—both members of the incumbent Republican Party—among whom we were privileged to “choose” last election day, men who for the most part have lived in mansions and sent their kids to private schools in the wealthy sub-

urbs of the imperial capital, for decades.

Yet the colonists did rebel. It’s hard to imagine, today, the faith and courage of a few hundred frozen musketmen, setting off across the darkened Delaware, gambling their lives and farms on the chance they could engage and defeat the greatest land army in the history of the known world, armed with only two palpable assets: one irreplaceable man to lead them, and some flimsy newspaper reprints of a parchment declaring: “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it....”

Do we believe that, still?

Recently, President Clinton’s then-Drug Czar, Lee Brown, told me the role of government is to protect the people from dangers, such as drugs. I corrected him, saying, “No, the role of government is to protect our liberties.”

“We’ll just have to disagree on that,” the president’s appointee said.

The War for American Independence began over unregistered, untaxed guns, when British forces attempted to seize arsenals of rifles, powder and ball from the hands of ill-orga-

nized Patriot militias in Lexington and Concord. American civilians shot and killed scores of these government agents as they marched back to Boston. Are those Minutemen still our heroes? Or do we now consider them “dangerous terrorists” and “depraved government-haters”?

In “The Federalist” No. 46, James Madison told us we need have no fear of any federal tyranny ever taking away our rights, arguing that under his proposed Constitution “the ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone,” and predicting that any usurpation of powers not specifically delegated would lead to “plans of resistance” and “appeal to a trial of force.”

Another prominent federalist, Noah Webster, wrote in 1787: “Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretence, raised in the United States.”

Is this still true today? Or are those who arm themselves and make contingency “plans of resistance” against government usurpations instead branded “conspirators” and “terrorists,” and ridiculously associated with Timothy McVeigh (who was kicked out of the only militia meeting he is ever known to have attended—in Michigan—and whose actions surely reflect more directly on the screening

process of the outfit that gave him his training in munitions — the United States Army.

In Phoenix last week, an air conditioner repairman and former Military Policeman named Chuck Knight was convicted by jurors—some tearful—who said they “had no choice” under the judge’s instructions, on a single federal “conspiracy” count of associating with others who owned automatic rifles on which they had failed to pay a \$200 “transfer tax”—after a trial in which defense attorney Ivan Abrams says he was forbidden to bring up the Second Amendment as a defense.

Were the Viper Militia readying “plans of resistance,” as recommended by Mr. Madison? Would the Constitution ever have been ratified, had Mr. Madison and his fellow federalists warned the citizens that such non-violent-preparations would get their weapons seized, and land them in jail for decades?

Happy Fourth of July. ■

Vin Suprynowicz is the assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Readers may contact him via e-mail at vin@lvjr.com. The website for the Suprynowicz column is at:

<http://www.nguworld.com/vindex/>

Vin Suprynowicz,  
vin@lvjr.com

Voir Dire: A French term which means “jury stacking.”

Whether through improvidence or deliberate, last minute dissipation of personal assets most of our elderly and their families have chosen to let the state pay for the care.

By outlining the problem as above, the solution becomes so simple and obvious that it is not necessary to state it. But to actually implement this solution will require something we are rapidly losing or perhaps have already lost, pride and self respect.

Does greed overcome our sense of pride and self respect so thoroughly that we are willing to forcibly take from others so that we may give more to our children or spend our resources lavishly during the early years of our retirement? If the answer is “yes”, perhaps it is too late. ■

# Death by government, 170,000,000 +

From Ken Nebel

Excerpts from an interview with Rudolph Rummel, author of *Death by Government* (professor emeritus, Univ. of Hawaii). Rummel, over a long and productive career, wrote many books and articles. However, his work has generally been unknown.

Why? The article containing the interview says, in part, “Despite his voluminous writings, Rummel’s findings were ignored because, among other things, they posed an unacceptable challenge to statist dogmas that dominated the intellectual world. But after the collapse of so many communist regimes, he could no longer be denied.”

**FREEMAN:** Could you tell us what your research has revealed about government power?

**RUMMEL:** Concentrated political power is the most dangerous thing on earth. During this century’s wars, there were some 38,000,000 battle deaths, but almost(sic) four times more people—at least 170,000,000 people—were killed by governments for ethnic, racial, tribal, religious or political reasons. I call this phenomenon democide, and it means that authoritarian and totalitarian governments are more deadly than war.

**FREEMAN:** Who were the biggest murderers of the 20th Century?

**RUMMEL:** Soviet communists top the list, having killed almost 62,000,000 of their own people and foreign subjects. I figure Stalin was responsible for nearly 43,000,000 deaths. Most of them, about 3,000,000, were the consequence of lethal forced labor in the gulag.

Chinese Communists were next, murdering about 35,000,000 of their own people. More than a million died during Chairman Mao’s “Cultural Revolution” alone. In addition to all these killed, another 27,000,000 died from the famine resulting from Mao’s insane economic policies.

Percentage-wise, communist Cambodia was the worst. Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge murdered about 2,000,000 people, almost 1/3 of the population, between 1975 and 1979. They murdered Muslim Chams, Cambodian - Vietnamese, Buddhist monks, military officers, anybody who was fluent in a foreign language, anybody who had a college education or professional training, and certainly anybody who violated their regulations.

Millions more people were murdered by com-

munist regimes in Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia. All told, I estimate communist regimes murdered more than 110,000,000 people.

Another 30,000,000 died in wars and rebellions provoked by communist regimes.

There were plenty of other murderous 20th century regimes, too.

Between 1900 and 1920, Mexico murdered about a million poor Indians and peasants. After WWII, the Polish government expelled ethnic Germans, murdering about 1,000,000. Pakistan murdered about 1,000,000 Bengalis and Hindus in 1971. Japanese militarists murdered about 6,000,000 Chinese, Indonesians, Koreans, Filipinos and others during WWII. Chiang Kai-Shek’s Nationalist Chinese murdered nearly 10,000,000 people between 1928 and 1949.

Although most people have heard that Hitler murdered almost 6,000,000 Jews, few people seem to be aware that Hitler murdered a total of 20,000,000 people -- including gypsies, homosexuals, Dutchmen, Italians, Frenchmen, Balts, Slavs, Czechs, Poles, Ukrainians, and others.

The interview continues with a long description of mass murders throughout history...

...And yes, there were horrors in the Americas. Aztecs killed people as part of their religious rituals, and Spanish conquistadors claimed to have counted 136,000 skulls outside Tenochtitlan. [so much for the alleged moral superiority of the “indigenous peoples” the Europeans treated so badly...]. The Incas killed thousands for their religion, too. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, an estimated 1.5 million slaves died while they were being transported across the Atlantic.

Between 1,000,000 and 2,500,000 North American Indians were killed as the United States expanded westward...

To receive the entire article onto 2 pages printed front and back, send via snail-mail a self addressed stamped business size envelope, and I will spring for the cost of the photocopies and the trip to the post office to mail it to you. Ken Nebel

227 N. 21 Ave. E.  
Duluth, MN 55812-1844 ■

## The real meaning of self esteem

By Rich Osness

The worst part of our government controlled social service system is the damage it does to our pride and self esteem. We no longer value the ability to take care of our own needs and the needs of our families as much as we once did. Rather than individual responsibility we now extol community responsibility.

I’m not preparing for an attack on AFDC, food stamps or day care subsidies. The subject is the elderly. It is now considered respectable to deliberately impoverish ourselves for the purpose of allowing others to support us in nursing homes. This is even touted as part of “financial planning”. Accountants and lawyers offer their services to assist in doing this properly to avoid legal consequences.

What about the moral consequences?

Few would argue about our responsibility as a society to care for the elderly. I only question the source and level of support. We face the choice of providing for ourselves and our family or relying on the state. There a lot of attorneys who can show us how to do the latter with legal impunity.

Many of us will face this moral dilemma twice in our lifetimes, once with the care of our parents and again when we reach that age ourselves. Several years ago I was appointed conservator for my parents. One of the first things that legal and financial advisors suggested was dissipating the assets of my parents so the state would take care of them when and if it came time for them to enter a nursing home.

When my parents

entered a nursing home I learned three things.

\* Nursing homes are expensive.

\* State supported care is the same as privately paid care.

\* Most people in nursing homes are supported by the state.

The government mandated level of care costs about \$35,000 to \$45,000 per year. Nursing homes are not allowed to provide a lower level of service at a lower cost. The mandated level of care is quite good and few people would choose a higher level of care if they were paying for it with their own money.

If you are using your own money you will quite likely receive the same level of care that is provided by the state. Thus, there is no practical incentive to provide for the care of ourselves or our family rather than accept state support.



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Are you a Self-Governor on PERSONAL issues? 20 10 0

- Military service should be voluntary. No draft. Y M N
- Government should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet. Y M N
- Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults. Y M N
- Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them. Y M N
- Let peaceful people cross borders freely. Y M N

PERSONAL Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.

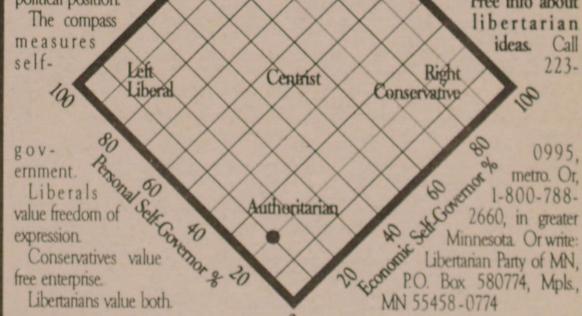
Are you a Self-Governor on ECONOMIC issues? 20 10 0

- Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies. Y M N
- People are better off with free trade than with tariffs. Y M N
- Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal. Y M N
- End taxes. Pay for services with user fees. Y M N
- All foreign aid should be privately funded. Y M N

ECONOMIC Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.

How to use the Self-Government Compass:

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. See example: 20% Personal and 10% Economic. Now, follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position.



Authoritarians are against both.  
For example: M Thatcher, right; F.D. Roosevelt, left; Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson, top; Stalin and Hitler, bottom.

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## (Fishin' from page 1)

when you step in it and sand that drains fast in a rain storm. A current of 3-4 knots, created by lots of rain, along with the 165 foot drop of the River Warren watershed and you've got serious river bank erosion possible. Yet, nature helps slow erosion down by having cottonwood trees wea; fast growing branches and trunks break off easily to build up the river banks. The Minnesota River looks healthy to me.

According to a Minneapolis Star/Tribune, August 3, 1997, article by Dean Rebuffoni, surveys show a cleaner Minnesota River. The improvements credit less farmland erosion because of conservation-tillage practices and government owned sewage treatment plants reducing the amount of phosphorus in the treated water they discharge. The Blue Lake Sewage Treatment plant reduced the phosphorus in its waste water by 3/4 since 1994 and the Seneca plant by about 50%. It's amazing what changing water treatment practices can do. I imagine the conservation-tillage practices erosion improvements are cumulative over the years. Now if we could just legislate Mother Nature to change the Minnesota River's banks to stone versus clay and sand and the water

clarity would be sure to improve. Another alternative would be to build a series of small hydro-electric dams to slow the current and so the erosion. Clean cheap hydro-electricity would be provided too. Anyway, it looks like the government-owned sewage treatment plants doing a better job is solving the man-made part of the "problem."

Back to the story. After a long afternoon of floating down the river the three canoes found a pleasant sandbar to camp on. We had to wait to set up camp though, because the sailing barge Liberty was quite a bit slower than a paddled canoe, even with the sail up. Tom, Colin and Forrest commented several times on how the river looked different from last year. Tom had a park service map that was a few years old. He had a hard time identifying bends in the river after just a couple of years. The river changes from year to year. Colin and Forrest told us that once the Minnesota River was a working river with steam-powered riverboats steaming all the way up to Brown's Valley near the South Dakota border. I wondered if they ever sailed. The sheltered, winding river valley makes for slow and endless tacking even with the current. Liberty sailed into camp about an hour later and dinner could be prepared.

A fire was built and we dined on roasted hot dogs and marshmallows. While we dined so did the mosquitoes. As dinner was finished and the sun set we hunkered down in our tents swatting the biters they we'd trapped inside.

After such a pleasant day and night without rain, morning made up for. With dark clouds, thunder and lightening swirling around us, we debated about breaking camp and making a run for it or waiting out the inevitable deluge we could see was coming. We kept camp and sat or slept through two torrential downpours of 2 1/2 inches total. Between storms we were treated to a litany of lightning, the crinkle kind that reaches for the sky like opening your hand. I thought of the TV show I'd watched of a photographer who chased lightning storms. He'd love photographing the lightening in this primitive country setting with wide horizons and lavender hues, I thought.

We decided that after two downpours the sky was empty, so we broke camp and hit the river. Before we did though, we witnessed another simple nature lesson, the sandbar gullies we created by emptying our canoes of rainwater. Tom, Steve and the girls were ready before Colin, Forrest and I and set out down the river. We never caught up with

them. With Liberty towing our canoe we floated lazily down stream to Shakopee passing various people fishing and recreating in the river. Next time I hope I get to make a trip all the way down the "Little Muddy" to the Big Muddy, the Mississippi. ■

deal contains new federal programs -- including a brand-new entitlement program which will spend \$24 billion on health insurance for children.

But on Capitol Hill, said Dasbach, politicians are sweeping all the bad news about the budget deal under the bipartisan rug.

At news conferences over the past several days, President Clinton said the new budget is "fabulous." Congressman John Kasich (R-OH), House Budget Committee Chairman, gushed that "it's a dream come true." And House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) called it a "bipartisan victory."

Dasbach disagreed.

"The deal is fabulous for politicians, who can keep micromanaging our economic decisions with the tax code," he said. "It's a dream come true for politicians, who have more of our money to spend. And it's a victory for politicians, who can augment their empires with new federal programs."

"But for ordinary Americans, the long national nightmare of out-of-control federal taxing and spending continues. This budget deal doesn't change that -- it makes it worse." ■

## Budget from page 1)

ederal government goes up, up, up."

What celebrating politicians won't admit, said Dasbach, is that thanks to this budget deal, the federal government is not only getting more expensive, it's getting more expensive faster.

"This five-year budget increases federal spending by about \$270 billion," he said. "And thanks to the Republican-controlled Congress, those increases are coming at a faster rate."

Republicans increased spending in 1996 by \$48 billion; increased it in 1997 by \$63 billion; and will increase it in 1998 by \$70 billion, noted Dasbach. In all, the GOP has increased non-defense expenditures by \$183 billion over the past three years -- or \$31 billion more than the three previous years, when Democrats were in control.

Despite the overall

growth in government spending, the new budget deal does include some tax cuts, acknowledged Dasbach: \$31 billion in tuition tax breaks and \$70 billion in children's tax credits. It also contains a reduction in the capital gains tax, a reduction in the estate tax, and more tax-deferred Individual Retirement Accounts.

"We give grudging support for these tax cuts, since Libertarians support almost any proposal that lets Americans keep more of their own money," he said. "Unfortunately, these tax cuts are typical Washington, DC, tax cuts -- too small, too narrowly targeted, and too wrapped up in complex tax credits and tax incentives."

"But we don't need to make our mind-bogglingly complicated tax system even more complicated in order to provide tax relief. Every American deserves tax cuts -- not just if you have children or if you're going to college. A better solution is to simply cut taxes across the board: Deep, immediate, real tax cuts. Let Americans decide how they're going to spend their money -- not politicians in Washington, DC."

Those tax cuts are also partially offset by \$50 billion in tax increases, noted Dasbach, including a 15c per pack cigarette tax hike, and new domestic and international airline taxes and fees. And the budget

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