

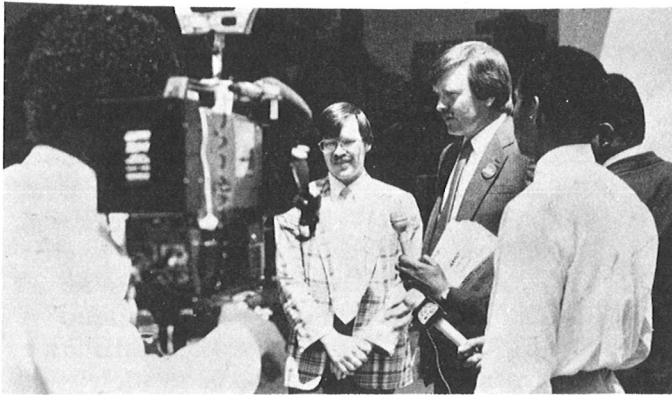
The South Carolina LIBERTARIAN



VOL. XI

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN PARTY

NO. II



S.C.L.P. PRESENTS PETITIONS

Representatives of the South Carolina L.P. turned over a number of petitions to Rep. Herbert Kirsh on Tuesday, April 28th, after a press conference in Columbia. SCLP Vice-chairperson William Griffin, Lexington County Chair Dr. David Morris, and Aiken County Chair Tom King met with members of the media on the steps of the Blott Office Complex to explain that the SCLP had gathered in excess of 5000 signatures on petitions in opposition to the Local Government Financing Act. The Bill, which offers several new taxes including local city and county income taxes, died in the state legislature due to the opposition which the SCLP led for the second year in a row.

"The South Carolina Libertarian Party is unalterably opposed to the Local Gov't Financing Act. We believe it will increase the tax burden on the working people of this state, hamper industrial development, and create an even more unwieldy and inefficient bureaucracy," stated Griffin, "the answer to Federal Government cuts lie in privatizing government operations and in cutting back unnecessary local government functions."

I.R.S. DEFINES LIBERTARIANISM

In a letter dated November 28, 1986, the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) advised the Advocates for Self-Government, Inc., a libertarian organization in Fresno, CA, that they were exempt from taxes as a 501 (c) 3 educational organization. In doing so the I.R.S. defined Libertarianism as: "a philosophy. The basic premise of libertarianism is that each individual should be free to do as he or she pleases so long as he or she does not harm others. In the libertarian view, societies and governments infringe on individual liberties whenever they tax wealth, create penalties for victimless crimes, or otherwise attempt to control or regulate individual conduct which harms or benefits no one except the individual who engaged in it." According to Marshall Fritz, head of the Advocates, "David Bergland acted as our attorney; together we answered all their questions forthrightly. The above quotation shows they have a very good understanding of our philosophy."

"And they understand our purpose, too. The line prior to the quote above is this: 'Your purpose is to educate the public to an acceptance of libertarianism,' stated Fritz.

If you would like more information concerning the Advocates for Self-Gov't you can write to them at 5333 E. Swift, Fresno, California 93727.

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The South Carolina LIBERTARIAN is published for public information by the SCLP and concerns the Libertarian Movement in South Carolina. Opinions and articles contained herein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated.

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COMMENTS

By Carol Moore

Libertarian & Green Author, Activist, Editor

I've been encouraged by the excellent response of both libertarians and non-libertarians to Jane Jacobs CITIES AND THE WEALTH OF NATIONS, which recommends the breakup of nation states, and Frances Kendall and Leon Louw's number one South African best seller SOUTH AFRICA: THE SOLUTION, which recommends a libertarian-oriented Swiss-style canton system. I've also had an excellent response to my newsletter DECENTRALIZE! I formally rejoined the Libertarian Party because of concern over possible challenges to women's abortion rights and have formed Pro-Choice Libertarians to defend these rights. As long as I'm here, I'm considering promoting some potentially effective libertarian decentralist strategies which have been overlooked by the party strategists.

Decentralist ideas and strategies are also being discussed by anarchists, populists, pacifists, greens and bioregionalists who've been influenced by libertarian leaning authors like Leopold Kohr (THE BREAKDOWN OF NATIONS) and Kirkpatrick Sale (HUMAN SCALE and DWELLERS IN THE LAND: THE BIOREGIONAL VISION). These individuals, many of whom are eager to work with libertarians, seek to dissolve nation states and assert their freedom to create diverse kinds of communities - including libertarian anarchists, proprietarian, minarchists or limited government communities.

Even many libertarians believe this freedom is the essence of libertarianism. Decentralism is implicit in the Libertarian Party platform plank specifying the "right to secession of political entities, private groups or individuals." I haven't met a libertarian yet who would use U.S. armed forces against secessionists.

A Decentralist strategy can respond to crises such as severe recession/depression, mounting military crises, and repression of individual liberties - all crisis of states and nation states. The Libertarian Party already supports "political and revolutionary actions" against governments that violate rights. The Decentralist Caucus would promote libertarians and decentralists of all stripes using non-violent action strategies such as tax resistance, civil disobedience, political and economic non-cooperation, non-violent civilian based defense and non-violent secession. These

could all be practiced in tandem with a gradualist strategy.

Certainly the Libertarian Party could advance such libertarian decentralism as practical alternatives to current problems in South Africa, in Lebanon, Israel-Palestine, the Phillipines, Sri Lanka, and Northern Ireland. And it is not too soon for the L.P. candidates to start talking about replacing the United States with a Confederated Communities of North America or ten or twenty regional confederations of communities.

I believe advancing such decentralist alternatives would seem no more pie-in-the-sky to the average American than talking about private roads or private defense. It might even seem more attractive because it would both satisfy Americans deep urge for local freedom and autonomy AND reassure them that they don't have to make the big step to limited local government or "anarchy" overnight. And it would be a needed antidote to the insidious patriotism which is used to excuse all sorts of government intervention here and abroad.

LIBERTY IN LIBRARIES: UPDATE

The Liberty in the Libraries project of the SCLP has been completed and was very successful. A total of 86 libraries around South Carolina have received copies of David Berglands book LIBERTARIANISM IN ONE LESSON and LIBERTY RECLAIMED by Jim Lewis. We even had a request for more books from the S.C. Dept. of Corrections. The result of this project should be an even wider awareness of the SCLP and Libertarianism in general. With a total of 46 counties in the state it should be no problem for anyone to not have access to these books and a ready explanation of what the L.P. is all about.



WOMANFEST '87: A Review

by Joan S. DiGiovanni

William Griffin, Vice-chairperson of the South Carolina Libertarian Party, was one of four speakers in a political panel discussion that was part of the sixth annual Womanfest held in Charleston, S.C. in March.

Offering a series of seminars aimed at giving women access to information useful in the personal, economic, and political aspects of their lives. Womanfest included a question-and answer session on learning the "rules" for involvement in America's political system.

The political panel speakers gave brief speeches before taking questions from the audience, with Griffin taking his opportunity to explain the Libertarian Party's main principle of preservation of personal, economic, and political freedom as supported by the Declaration of Independence. He, along with Sandra S. Wofford of the Berkeley County Women's Club, Linda Lingle of the Democratic Party, and Louisa Storen of the Charleston League of Women Voters, then answered queries about effecting change.

Similar methods were expounded such as letters to elected representatives stating stands on issues, petition drives, and speaking with representatives in person. Running for posts on local boards and councils were also urged based upon the idea that people are more affected by actions on the town, city, and county levels than by those at the federal level.

Griffin's general feeling at the end of the session was that the information imparted by the panel as well as additional exposure

of the Libertarian Party, especially to those new to the philosophy, was worth the time taken to participate in this year's Womanfest.

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DRUG TESTING: IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL?

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads as follows: "The right to the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons and things to be seized."

The Fifth Amendment states: "No person shall...be compelled in any criminal case to be a person against himself."

These hallowed words sufficiently, unquestioningly and eloquently rule out random mandatory drug testing as a way to fight the nation's drug problem. To demand that a person yield up his or her bodily fluids constitutes the kind of seizure the Fourth Amendment refers to, and testing those fluids represents the kind of search it proscribes. Therefore to do either without probable cause is clearly a violation of that amendment. And to use evidence gathered from bodily fluids that a person was required to submit for testing without probable cause seems just as clearly a violation of the Fifth Amendment. It all seems so simple, so obvious.

*reprinted courtesy of THE PRAGMATIST, Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922

FROM THE CHAIR by John B. Heaton

Well Spring has sprung and the SCLP is off and running. As you may be aware we have recently completed our petition drive to defeat the City-County Income Tax Bill - we did it! The Liberty in the Libraries program has been completed with great success and the Phone Fund is moving along well with several hundred dollars already raised.

While on the subject of the Petition Drive I would like to especially thank Tom King and his wife Mary Lou for their efforts without which the campaign would not have been anywhere near the success

that it has turned out to be, also, thanks to David Morris and his wife Jan, and to Bill Griffin.

Now, I hope that you are all planning to attend our 4th of July Picnic on the 12th of July for a Pool Party at Bill Griffin's house, it will be a real blast! At our picnic we will be holding the drawing for our RAFFLE of a VHS-VCR, which you should have already received tickets for - GET OUT THERE AND SELL THOSE TICKETS, We need the money for upcoming projects!!!

That's about all I have to say, except that we would like for more people to become active in the Party activities, so give me a call at 648-9806. THANKS!

ATLANTA NatCom/GEORGIA CONVENTION

April 3rd, 4th, and 5th proved to be a grand liberty weekend in Atlanta, Georgia, as the National Libertarian Party National Committee met in general session at the same time as the Georgia State Convention. The speakers were numerous including: Paul Jacob, Karl Hess, Robert Poole, Rep. Ron Paul and Indian Rights Activists Russell Means. Included in the affair was the presentation of the 'Cracked Pot' Awards which have become an institution in GA.

One of the main events of the meetings was the formation of a Southern Caucus which was formed by representatives of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama (other states in the region such as Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas were called upon to join but did not have any representatives present).

The entire affair was carried off very well by the Georgia folks who deserve a round of applause for sponsoring the event and inviting the South to participate.

4th of JULY PARTY - Ya'll Come

Well, close but not exactly, the South Carolina Libertarian Party requests the honor of your presence at a Party party on the 12th day of July, 1987, at the home of Bill Griffin, located in the community of South Congree, West Columbia, South Carolina. The festivities will begin around 10:30 in the morning and will continue until everyone leaves. It is a cover-dish, bring your own (beer supplied) R.S.V.P. EVENT. Ya'll come!

PRESIDENTIAL RACE HEATS UP

- Two Vie For Nomination of L.P.

Two well known national political figures have announced their intentions of taking the L.P. banner into the 1988 election wars. The one who will win out will do so at the National Nominating Convention to be held in Seattle, Washington, the first week of September, 1987.

Long-time American Indian Movement activist Russell Means announced his intentions in February. Means, 47, a Lakota Sioux from South Dakota, says his decision to run as a Libertarian came after discovering how much his philosophy and goals as an Indian matched those of the Libertarians.

"Actually, the only thing that has changed is the scope of my goal. I now realize that all Americans, not just Indians, desperately need to regain control of their own lives," stated Means.

The front-runner in the race seems to be former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, who also announced his candidacy in February and was interviewed in the last issue of the South Carolina LIBERTARIAN.

"Our campaign office is not far from the Johnson Space Center and has been in full swing since February. I've received a lot of encouragement from friends and even former Republican colleagues. They shouldn't be surprised. I was always regarded as the lone 'radical' in Congress. Balancing the budget, honest and limited government, personal freedom and non-interventionism have long been out of style in Washington," Paul said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EITHER OF THESE TWO CANDIDATES PLEASE CALL 1-800-682-1776 TODAY.

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