Volume 6 • Number 12 • March 1992

# Libertarian News

LIBERTARIANS CELEBRATE "BREAKTHROUGH '92"

Libertarians from across California gathered in Irvine February 14-17 for the Libertarian Party of California's 20th Annual State Convention. The theme was "Breakthrough '92," recognizing that with increasing party membership in California and more local election victories, the Party of Principle could make major strides in 1992.

Speakers included political consultant Eileen Padberg on how to win campaigns, Larry Dodge of the Fully Informed Jury Association, Neal Knox on defending gun owners' rights, and Stephen Guffanti on the

Choice in Education Initiative. There was also a panel discussion on issues for LP candidates, featuring Orange County Register senior columnist Alan Bock, political scientist Williamson "Bill" Evers, and former presidential nominees Ed Clark and David Bergland. Current vice-presidential nominee Dr. Nancy Lord took time out from campaigning in New Hampshire to address the Saturday Night Banquet, where \$10,000 was raised for the presidential campaign fund. Attendees were also entertained by blues band Luke and the Locomotives and some local stand-up comics.



Only 486 assault rifle owners have registered their weapons under a special 90-day "amnesty" from the state law that makes possession of unregistered semi-automatic assault rifles a crime. A total of 46,062 of these weapons have been registered. The state Dept. of Justice estimates there are 200,000 to 300,000 of them in California. Others have calculated as many as 450,000 to 600,000. Gun owners groups and Libertarians have saluted this massive civil disobedience against a law that clearly violates the 2nd Amendment.

Taxpayers have been paying for a \$330,000 advertising campaign to inform gun owners. State Senator David Roberti (D-Los Angeles), the sponsor of the bill, said the turnout so far "appears to be a little slow" but insisted "it takes time for the advertising to sink in." Responded Michael McNulty of California Organization of Public Safety, a pro-gun group, "... the law is an abject failure when you also consider the number of applicants complying with the registration requirements." We predict that hundreds of thousands of gun owners will remain disobedient and thus risk fines and imprisonment.



LPC Officers (I-r) Ray Acosta, Bob Weber, Pat Wright, Bill Evers, Bonnie Flickenger

Convention delegates made some changes to the party bylaws, including two-year terms for party officers starting in 1993. Several changes were made to the platform, including discussion of "politically correct" speech codes, agriculture, police power, family life and insurance.

Attendees heard the terrific news that party membership has risen from 2112 members on 1/31/91 to an all-time high of 3800 as of 2/12/92. Pat Wright promised to recruit 4000 members in his 1991 campaign for state chair, and he came close enough for government work! Wright was de-

cisively re-elected for another term. Other officers elected are **Bill Evers** of Menlo Park, Northern Vice-chair; **Bob Weber** of Culver
City, Southern Vice-chair; **Ray Acosta** of Montebello, secretary;
and **Bonnie Flickinger** of Moreno Valley, treasurer.

At-large members of the State Executive Committee will be Eric Lund of Redondo Beach, Kate O'Brien of Menlo Park, Ted Brown of Pasadena, Ross Crain of Red Bluff, and Mark Hinkle of San Jose. Elected to the Judicial Committee (the LPC's "Supreme Court") were party veterans David Nolan, David Bergland, Bruce Lagasse, Dan Wiener and Jack Dean.

#### **MARROU WINS IN DIXVILLE NOTCH!**

The 31 voters of Dixville Notch, New Hampshire all vote together at midnight each presidential election so that their votes are the first to be reported nationwide. Because of this, Libertarian presidential nominee **Andre Marrou** assiduously courted each voter in that tiny, but media-covered, town. His efforts paid off, and he won a plurality in the February 18 primary election! Marrou garnered 11 votes, ahead of George Bush (9), Pat Buchanan (3), Bill Clinton (3), Ralph Nader (3) and Paul Tsongas (2).

CNN was there live when the votes were counted, so there was no way to ignore the fact that a Libertarian won more votes than the President of the United States! Yet, some national and local news channels didn't report the news accurately, or failed to report it at all. The Los Angeles Times mentioned Marrou's victory on page 20, and the Wall Street Journal made note of it on a front-page column. With 93% of the Libertarian primary ballots counted in New Hampshire, Marrou won 2,352 votes. Additionally, 99 Republicans wrote him in on the Republican ballot.





# FROM THE CHAIR PAT WRIGHT

My thanks to everyone who supported me for a second term as state party chairman. My special thanks to Kim Goldsworthy for running such a good race.

Now I have to live up to the campaign promises I made to get reelected. Specifically, my goals for the next year are 6,000 dues-paid members by the 1993 convention and a voter registration drive that would change our status as being the smallest political party in California. Being the smallest ballot-qualified party in the state simply isn't acceptable.

I feel as if I came out of the recent LP convention more committed to the pragmatist wing of the Libertarian Party than the purist or radical wings. However, I will not compromise our principles. I just believe we need to put our best foot forward and concentrate on getting results.

There were two controversies at the convention. Due to time constraints, the issue of the pledge that's required for full voting membership in the LPC didn't come up before convention delegates. I believe that those of us who wish to omit the pledge make up a sizeable minority within the LPC, and that our position was strengthened by all the alternative pledges that have been submitted. When something gets too confusing, just get rid of it! It's not doing us any good.

Secondly, the LPC is facing the issue of whether or not to run a candidate against a libertarian Republican (there are no libertarian Democrats). My position that we shouldn't run a candidate against Assemblyman Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) in his race for U. S. Congress created concern among delegates. I believe we need to target our campaigns more carefully, and run fewer but better partisan campaigns and keep on winning non-partisan races.

For those who disagree with my positions, don't be too alarmed. I am only one vote on the fifteen-member state executive committee, and can't and won't act without their consent. The LPC has many members from the "pure/radical" wing that help keep the LPC from becoming an imitation of the Republican Party.

One last note: For those of you who read last month's chair's report, I still haven't heard from the California Department of Fish and Game. I have been calling, faxing and writing for two months, but these public servants haven't seen fit to respond. I would still like to ask you to write the director and request he legalize ferrets in California. Please write to Boyd Gibbons, Department of Fish and Game, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814, phone (916) 653-7664, FAX (916) 653-1856.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Libertarian Party of California's state executive committee met twice during the convention weekend—February 14 for the outgoing committee and February 17 for the incoming committee. The following actions were taken:

- ★ David McCann, Sacramento LP chair, was censured for shoving fellow Libertarian Robert Gehl and for improper attempts to expel party members.
- ★ The Operations Committee members were reelected: Pat Wright, Bonnie Flickinger, Ted Brown, John Vernon and Mark Hinkle. The OpCom is in charge of running the party between executive committee meetings.
- ★ The 800-number inquiry line was moved from **Dick Rider's** office in San Diego to the new Libertarian Party of Los Angeles headquarters in West Los Angeles.
- ★ The party will switch to a monthly renewal system to replace the current quarterly system. This means that someone who joins on April 20 will have their membership expire April 30 of the following year, rather than the nearest quarter.
- ★ An effort will be made to get inquiries to register Libertarian and then become members and contributors.
- ★ The next meeting will be held April 25 in West Los Angeles.

#### **SHOE** By Jeff MacNelly



# **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

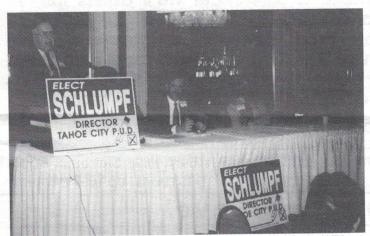




Libertarians boogie to the sound of blues band Luke and the Locomotives.



FIJA coordinator Larry Dodge introduces Dixieanne Hawks, whose "jury tampering" case was recently dismissed.



Dennis Schlumpf, Libertarian member of the Tahoe City Public Utilities District board, tells of of his election victory.



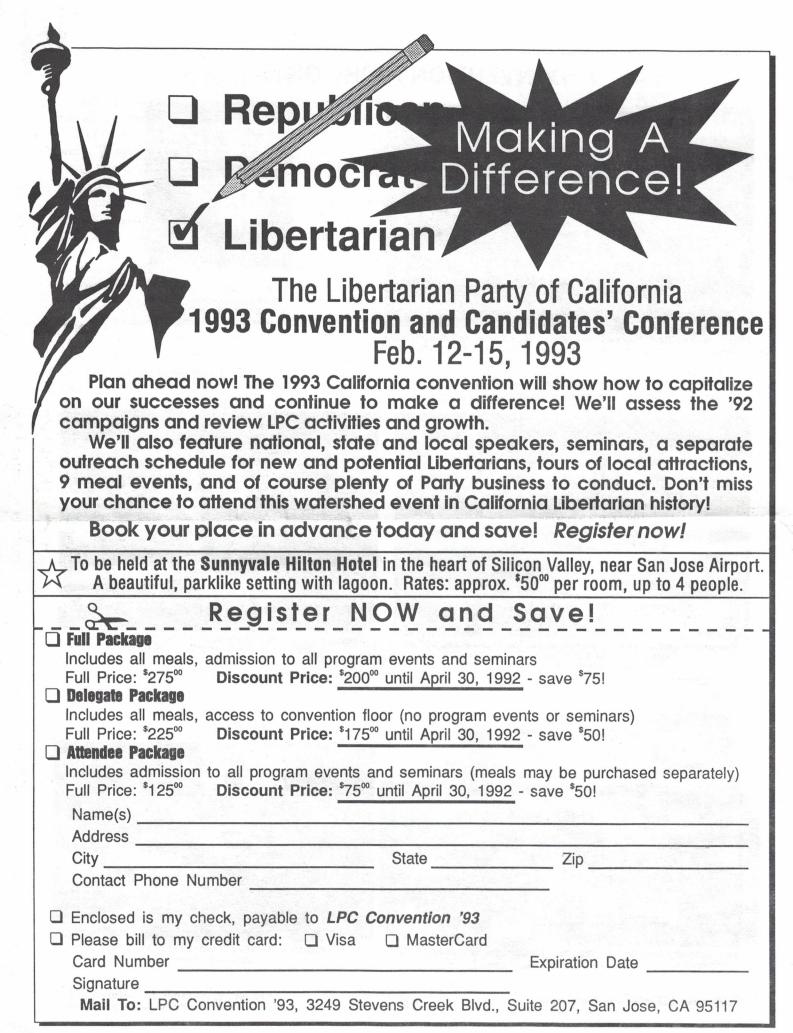
Veteran activist Jerry Douglas receives the Karl Bray Memorial Award from former state chair Bruce Lagasse.



Convention-goers enjoy the Saturday night banquet. Dr. Nancy Lord was the featured speaker.



The new state executive committee meets in a decidedly unsmokey room.

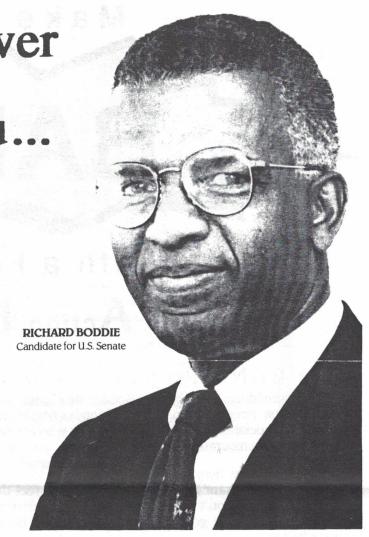


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#### Dear Fellow Libertarians:

By now you all know what happened at Dixville Notch, N.H. Bush and Buchannan personally phoned each of the 31 voters. Marrou spoke with each in person. His victory proves voters respond when Libertarians have an equal chance to present our message.

Some may say Marrou's victory was a miracle. In a way it was. More accurately it reflected Marrou's grass-roots campaigning. To overcome the 400:1 odds against us winning the U.S. Senate seat in California, we must also water the grass roots. That is the purpose of BANG.

If you want what happened to Andre in Dixville Notch to happen to us here in California, it is IMPERATIVE that every dues paying Libertarian in California participate in the BANG effort. This small step involves just a few dollars and a couple of hours of your time -- but it can make the difference. If each of you, the 3,800 dues paying members of the California L.P. participate in BANG, a majority of Californians will get a personally delivered appeal to vote Libertarian. Never before have California voters been so ready for our message. You can deliver it: ultimately, the fate of the election is in your hands.

Our campaign staff will do its part. We have produced a dynamite commercial, and one of the best outreach brochures ever produced by a Libertarian candidate. Accompanied by our CLEO award winning media director, I will personally visit news directors and assignment editors state wide -- to insure that we get news coverage. No stone will remain unturned in our effort to promote the Libertarian message.

Combine BANG with T.V. ads, and a few surprises we are cooking up, and we CAN do to Feinstein and Seymour what Andre did to Bush and the others in Dixville Notch.

We need your contributions to put us on television; we need your participation in BANG. California needs Libertarian leadership -- with your help, California will get what it needs. Act today -- delay only helps our opponents.

If it is to be...it is up to US.

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Candidate for U.S. Senate





#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

California Libertarian News is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor: Ted Brown, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568–8404

#### DMV and Social Security Numbers

#### Editor:

As you know, State Senator Rebecca Morgan (R-Los Altos Hills) successfully introduced the intrusive bill to require a social security number from anyone obtaining a drivers license or registering a car. I bombarded Senator Morgan's office with opposition and was rewarded with a phone call from her office on February 10.

She claims that the real law "requiring Social Security Numbers with drivers license and motor vehicle applications" was AB 1297 sponsored by Assemblyman Philip Isenberg (D-Sacramento). This law was a huge enterprise and involved many subjects. Morgan claimed that since the DMV was being required to collect SSNs anyway, then they could be used to track down people who owe child support payments. So she sponsored SB 395 for that purpose.

Nevertheless I reiterated my position that the collection of SSNs by the DMV or any other entity was an unacceptable invasion of privacy as well as further empowerment of the state government. I urged the repeal of SB 395.

Apparently Ms. Morgan has taken on the child support issue as her "cause" and feels that anything she can do to force collection from recalcitrant fathers is permissible. My encounter with Ms. Morgan's office was friendly but there was no indication she agreed with my position in any way or would make any effort to repeal the SSN requirement.

Don Hull Costa Mesa, CA

## More on Immigration

#### **Editor:**

In response to Frank Groffie's letter (February *CL News*), many Libertarians agree with his views and I don't think we should put him down by reciting motherhood philosophy on liberty and freedom. We live in a realistic world and it's easy to see that many of the problems in this country today are the result of immigration.

It's nice to preach liberty and freedom for the rest of the world but let them earn it like our forefathers did. If we provide the land of utopia open to all comers, overpopulation, congestion, pollution, crime and disease will explode. The United States may set a pattern for the rest of the world to follow, but we are not obligated to take in the overpopulation and misfits from everywhere else. We have enough problems of our own.

The open door policy may sound good religiously but only rapid deterioration is sure to follow. Our resources are limited and strained now. Our liberties and freedoms would disappear from erosion. This country is our home and we have a right to protect it.

I recommend that the Libertarian Party review its position on this subject. If we are serious about gaining national support, let's protect those liberties and freedoms we have now for those who have earned it. We can't save the rest of the world. That philosophy has caused this country too many problems already.

John E. Wheeler Bonny Doon, CA

#### **Editor:**

Mr. Groffie stated that "Keeping undesirables out of the country is a legitimate function of government." I agree with your response reminding readers of the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, but I would add the Libertarian definition of government's sole role in a free society.

Government's sole function is to protect the rights of individuals. The writer's interpretation that keeping undesirables out of the country is a legitimate function of government doesn't pass the test. An "undesirable" may only be in the mind of the person judging. Unless he or she infringes on the rights of another individual, there should be no government involvement.

Doyle Guhy Yorba Linda, CA

# Health Care is not a "Right" Editor:

U. S. Senator Harris Wofford (D-Pa.) has recently stated that since every accused criminal has the constitutional right to an attorney, it must follow that every American must also have the right to a doctor. This demonstrates faulty reasoning which trivializes the concept of "rights."

The reason that accused criminals have a *right* to a lawyer is to protect them from possible abuse by the government. In fact, the Bill of Rights exists to define rights which may not be usurped by the government and is a tool with which a citizen may fight his own government if necessary.

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Write for catalog to: P. O. Box 2451 Riverside, CA 92516 While I have a longstanding and traditional right to life, liberty and property, this does not mean that any individual or government is obligated to provide me with these things. What it does mean is that nobody, particularly the government, may deprive me of my rights. Since nobody is depriving me of health care, even though I can't afford it, it is not proper for me to try to create a new "right" that can come about only by

While health care is desirable, it is not now, nor can it ever really be, a "right." We should not use force through taxation to take our neighbor's money for our own purposes. That is called stealing.

forcing my neighbor to pay for my health care via

Rick Chaeff, D. C. San Jose, CA

increasing his taxes.

# Secession of Northern California Editor:

In the January *CL News* you report that the Libertarian Party's state executive committee endorsed a proposal by Assemblyman Stan Statham (R-Redding) for Northern California to secede from the state and form a new state.

The issue, as I understand it, is basically one of the northern counties having different interests and priorities than the more urbanized parts of California. I agree with this underlying principle. Governments should only be formed and operated for the sake of addressing common interests (assuming that those interests are appropriate government pursuits).

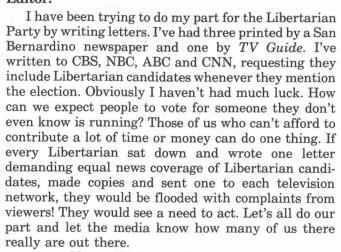
The broader question that this raises is in regard to the federal government. The main function of the federation is to provide for the common defense of member states, commonwealths and republics. However, the feds are having a rough time these days finding enemies to protect us from. If they can't make the drug war fly, then what will they do? Another Gulf War, or many smaller skirmishes such as Panama and Grenada? To what extent has the federal apparatus become a charade? Is federalism relevant in today's world?

It is a well-known fact that California, by itself, is one of the world's largest and most powerful economic powers, and as such certainly could be a viable national entity. Is there a viable cost-benefit ratio in California's relationship with the federation?

If we are endorsing Northern California's secession from California, then, to be consistent, we must extend the same arguments to their logical conclusion, where ever that may lead.

> Donald Figge Norwalk, CA

# Writer Pens for Equal Time Editor:



Nancy Williams Upfold Running Springs, CA

#### **NOTABLE QUOTES**

"You see before you a 506-month-old fetus."

—Assemblyman Pat Nolan (R-Glendale) at an anti-abortion rally at the State Capitol.

"I'm called a protectionist, but (what) I want to protect is free trade. And the way you do that is to retaliate against those who do not believe in it."

—Lee Iacocca, chairman, Chrysler Corp.

"Had political consultants advised President Abraham Lincoln, they would have watered down the Emancipation Proclamation until it was a tax credit for heated slave quarters."

—Gerry Braun, Copley News Service

"I'd give each of them a million dollars and tell them to stay out of town."

—Walter Williams, libertarian economist appearing as a guest on "Wall Street Week" in response to Louis Rukseyer's question, "If you could do one thing with the 535 members of Congress, what would it be?"

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#### **BILLS TO OPPOSE**

After passing more than 1500 new laws in 1991, our state legislators are back in Sacramento for the second half of their two-year session. They are already busy at work. To oppose any of the following bills, write to your State Senator or Assembly member at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

AB 2328 by Assemblyman Ross Johnson (R-La Habra) would impose a \$1,000 contribution limit on any individual or business firm to any state or local candidate during an election cycle. (There is a positive part to this bill that would prohibit public financing of campaigns).

**AB 819** by Assemblywoman Jackie Speier (D-South San Francisco) would prohibit doctors from referring patients to laboratories or clinics in which the physicians have a financial interest.

SB 1287 by Senator Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) would require retailers to inform consumers of the specific four-hour time period during which home deliveries of purchases shall be made at the time of sale or before the scheduled delivery date.

AB 2438 by Assemblyman Richard Katz (D-Sylmar) would make it illegal to transmit unsolicited advertising over a fax machine and impose a \$500 fine for every illegal transmission. (Fax your opposition to this bill to Katz' office.)

AB 2440 by Assemblyman Xavier Becerra (D-Monterey Park) would prohibit an employer from requiring that only English be spoken in the workplace.

AB 1400 by Assemblywoman Louise Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles) to allow California State Bar disciplinary action against attorneys who demand sexual relations with a client in connection with professional legal representation. (Reportedly, Ms. Roybal-Allard got the idea for this one after watching the exploits of L. A. Law's amorous divorce lawyer Arnie Becker.)

AB 27X by Assemblyman Tom Bates (D-Oakland) would require the state (taxpayers) to reimburse Alameda County, Oakland and Berkeley for \$8 million worth of property tax revenue lost because of the Oakland hills fire.

SB 1315 by Senator Bill Leonard (R-Big Bear) would allow the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to refuse to issue new liquor licenses to businesses located near schools if the school district files a protest.

**AB 2599** by Assemblyman Dave Elder (D-San Pedro) would require cemeteries to dig graves to a minimum specified depth and cover the coffins with a minimum amount of dirt.

# NEW OR REVISED PLATFORM PLANKS

#### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

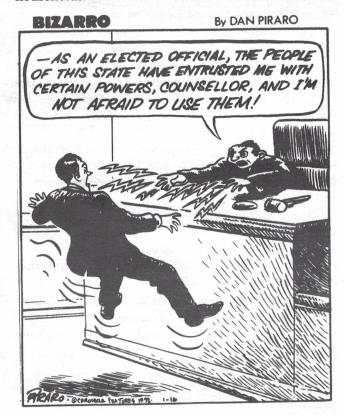
Since we favor application of the First Amendment to public entities, while upholding the right of private enterprises to make their own rules governing their own property, we oppose the enactment—at colleges and universities that are primarily tax-funded—of speech codes that ban language that is deemed offensive.

#### POLICE

We oppose government police officers using unnecessary force on the disorderly or the criminally accused or handing out what they may consider to be instant punishments on the streets. We further deny that police have such inherent authority. Instant punishment policies deprive the accused of important checks on government power—juries and the judicial process.

#### **FAMILY LIFE**

Governments at all levels are intruding on the integrity of families and households. Such governmental interference has undermined the value of families and households as cultural institutions of love, nurture, companionship, kinship and personal development by forcing families to conform to a rigid, inflexible design. Moreover, we condemn the usurpation by government of activities long carried on by families and households. This usurpation is accomplished through "morals laws," government welfare programs, child protective services and public schools. We further accuse government of designing educational programs that place civic and moral education under the control of politicians and of designing welfare laws that destroy families and households.



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P. O. Box 1492       South County       Jim Rushing       .(714) 494-         Moreno Valley, CA 92556       Placer (16)       Bruce Daniel       .(916) 652-         Database Manager:       Riverside (87)       Ron Holman       .(714) 684-         Sacramento/Yolo (158)       David McCann       .(916) 988-
Moreno Valley, CA 92556  Placer (16)
Sacramento/Yolo (158) David McCann (916) 988-
Sacramento/Yolo (158) David McCann (916) 988-
Thea McLean
655 Lewelling Blvd. #362, San Leandro, CA 94579  San Bernardino (82)
San Leandro, CA 94579 San Diego (584)
San Diego (004)
San Francisco (105) John Whisman (415) 991
Newsletter Editor: San Francisco (105)
Ted Brown
Dan Wateo (65)
Santa Barbara (00)
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National LP Headquarters: (202) 543-1988 Sonoma (52)
1528 Pennsylvania Ave S E Stanislaus (12)
Washington, DC 20003 Tehama (8)
Tulare (18)
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# Libertarian Party of California

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#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### **UPCOMING EVENT**



- ★ Federal Judge James Spencer ruled January 17 that Virginia may require a voter to provide a social security number when registering to vote (Greidinger v. Davis). The court found the burden on the plaintiff "minimal" and the state's interest in fair and honest elections "compelling." The judge agreed that under the Privacy Act, federal, state or local governments may not deny an individual any right or privilege simply because that person refuses to provide a social security number. Virginia, however, had been requiring the SSN for voter registration prior to 1/1/75 and therefore was excepted by a grandfather clause in the law.
- ★ Baldwin Park (Los Angeles County) City Councilman Herschel Keyser was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated after he refused to take a test to determine the amount of alcohol in his blood. Keyser, 60, wasn't pleased. He told a police officer, "I don't blame people for shooting at you. I think it should be declared open season on Baldwin Park police. I hope you get shot and killed tonight." Later during his booking Keyser told another officer, "You better start making out your resume because you're going to need a new job." The Baldwin Park Police Association has called for Keyser's resignation; he responded by filing for re-election.
- ★ Labeling the current system "a blatant abuse," veteran U. S. Rep. Anthony Beilenson (D-Los Angeles) is sponsoring a bill forbidding incumbents from sending free mail to voters in areas they would newly represent because of redistricting. To announce his position, Beilenson, who is poised to run the new 24th Congressional District, mailed a press release to the news media. The release was mailed through use of the taxpayer-supported mailing privilege for Congress.

★ The Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County will host a brunch Sunday, March 22, on "The Dangers of Filing an Income Tax Return." Speakers will be Bro. Jim Lorenz, former San Diego LP chair, who hasn't filed a tax return in almost twenty years; and Steve Hempfling, director of the Free Enterprise Society. which since 1979 has defended people charged with failure to file state and federal tax returns. Location: Les Freres Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Boulevard, in Los Angeles (west of downtown, near Alvarado). Time: 11 a.m. for brunch, 12 noon for program. Cost for brunch and program is \$20 (before March 16), \$24 (before March 20), or \$28 at the door. Cost for program is \$7, \$10, or \$12 (see dates above). Send your checks to LPLAC, P.O. Box 547, Reseda, CA 91337. For last minute reservations or information, call Michael **Everling** at (213) 487-5199.

#### LIBERTARIAN NOTES

- ★ Martha Webb, longtime libertarian and mother of Simi Valley Councilwoman Sandi Webb, died February 18. She will be greatly missed by friends and family.
- ★ Congratulations to J. Neil Schulman! The libertarian novelist and 2nd Amendment champion had a superb gun-rights article published in the January 1 Los Angeles Times—the first such piece the Times has published in years. Schulman compared two recent gun incidents. One was the notorious October 16 Killeen, Texas massacre, where a madman entered a restaurant and shot 23 people before killing himself. A few weeks later, two armed robbers entered a restaurant in Anniston, Alabama. A similar beginning to the Killeen tragedy—with one difference. An Alabama customer was armed. He shot both robbers. Incident over. As Schulman observes, none of those murdered in Killeen were armed—by order of the state government. Texas, unlike Alabama, forbids citizens from carrying weapons outside their homes or workplaces.

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