

# WE CAN AGREE...

# FREE

- Free people are more productive.
- Taxes should be substantially and systematically reduced.
- Childrens' education is parents' responsibility.
- America's tradition of voluntary charity is superior to welfare programs.
- Social Security should be voluntary.
- Government causes inflation.
- Criminals must be required to compensate victims whenever possible.
- People can use their property as they choose, allowing others to do the same.

Where do my rights end? Where yours begin. I may do anything with my own life, liberty and property without your consent; but I may do nothing with your life, liberty and property without your consent.—Jarrett Wollstein, 1970

Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others.—William Allen White



## Time for

# Liberty

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## Libertarian Computer Opens for Business

by Mark W.A. Hinkle

The computer Bulletin Board System (BBS) of the Santa Clara Libertarian Party is now open for business. The phone number is (408) 947-1776. This phone number is answered only by our computer and will only "talk" to another computer. Our modem will handle 300/1200 baud, 8,N,1. The name of the BBS is "Liberty Bell."

The use of the computer, an Ampro series 100, has been graciously donated by Craig Franklin. The terminal used with the computer has been loaned to us by Kennita Watson. Many thanks to both for use of their equipment. Special thanks go to our SYSOP (System Operator to you noncomputer people) Mike Iddings and to Bob Bickford. They're the ones who worked out all the bugs and got the system up and running.

The BBS has been tested by several of the local LP officers to send articles to the editor of this newsletter and to keep the Executive Committee informed of what's happening. Several members have begun a dialogue on various libertarian issues. It is our hope that other will join in and contribute to the "discussion."

The "Legislative Log" is also there for late-breaking developments in the criminal worlds of Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Libertarian activities around the Bay Area will be regularly posted on the system. Others may contribute information from all over California. This will be an "open" BBS and you, the callers, will decide where it goes.

This BBS computer is just the start of the Libertarian Computer Network that will link libertarians' computers together throughout the world. Linking our computer with the state and national LP computers is already in the planning stages. Using Electronic Mail, we will shortly be able to bypass the post office for many of our membership updating and reporting paperwork. Updates will become more timely and will require less data-entry time.

If, after checking the system out, you would like to help defray the cost of the "Liberty Bell" system, your checks or money orders should be sent to our headquarters at 401 East Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party Computer Fund.

Happy computing!

### Public Program Meeting October 9th features

Parent's Advocates for Children Inc.  
and  
A Discussion of Public Schools

Two of the founding members of Parent's Advocates for Children will address the public meeting sponsored by the Libertarians in Fresno County at the Carnation Family Restaurant at 1089 E. Shaw Ave. near First. Food and fountain service is available in the rear banquet room beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the program begins at 8:00.

The discussion covers controversial ground on school district policy, student and school board member treatment, and budget disposition. Additionally, John Santoya critically enumerates school official's misfeasance along with suggestions for remedies.

*All persons interested in quality education are invited to attend.*

## Chicken Little— Chicken Little

The White House, which was built on a swamp, is sinking at the rate of one inch every 120 years. By the year 113,053, it should sink entirely out of sight.

## Job Assistance

"It's easy to be a humorist when you have the whole government working for you."—Will Rogers

## Tulare Libertarians meet Saturdays

The Tulare County Libertarians have an on going study and discussion group meeting every other Saturday.

October's meetings are on the 5th and the 19th at 8:30 a.m. until about 10:00 at the Picnic Sandwich Shop 114 W. Main Street, Visalia. More information can be gained by calling (209) 688-4159 and talking to the Tulare County Chairman of the Libertarian party.

## Around the World

According to the General Accounting Office, in fiscal 1985, about 40 percent of all U.S. military forces are based outside of the continental United States.

# STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES...

We believe that the basic purpose of the Fresno County Central Committee is to change the present day political structure in the United States by beginning to move it toward recognition and acceptance of individual freedoms and choice, without the use of coercion or force, as expressed in the Libertarian Principles.

We believe that the most effective

method to achieve this purpose is by winning sufficient elections so that the predominant weight of voter opinion will peacefully elicit political change.

We believe that to win political elections we must develop workable political, economic and social programs, based on Libertarian principles and philosophies, which lead to the solution of relevant problems;

and, that these programs must be designed to lead the American public to a more perfect freedom.

We believe that any program worthy of our name must be disseminated in a fashion and means which entices the voter to not only stop, look and listen, but to act by voting favorably for our common cause.

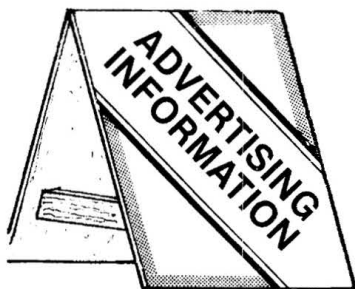
## The Individual in Society

Seen from the point of view of the individual, society is the great means for the attainment of all his ends. The preservation of society is an essential condition of any plans an individual may want to realize by any action whatever.

Even the refractory delinquent who fails to adjust his conduct to the requirements of life within the societal system of cooperation does not want to miss any of the advantages derived from the division of labor. He does not consciously aim at the destruction of society. He wants to lay his hands on a greater portion of the jointly produced wealth than the social order assigns to him. He would feel miserable if antisocial behavior were to become universal and its inevitable outcome, the return to primitive indigence, resulted.

Liberty and freedom are the conditions of man within a contractual society. Social cooperation under a system of private ownership of the means of production means that within the range of the market the individual is not bound to obey and to serve an overlord. As far as he gives and serves other people, he does so of his own accord in order to be rewarded and served by the receivers. He exchanges goods and services, he does not do compulsory labor and does not pay tribute. He is certainly not independent. He depends on the other members of society. But this dependence is mutual. The buyer depends on the seller and the seller on the buyer.

—Ludwig von Mises  
Economist



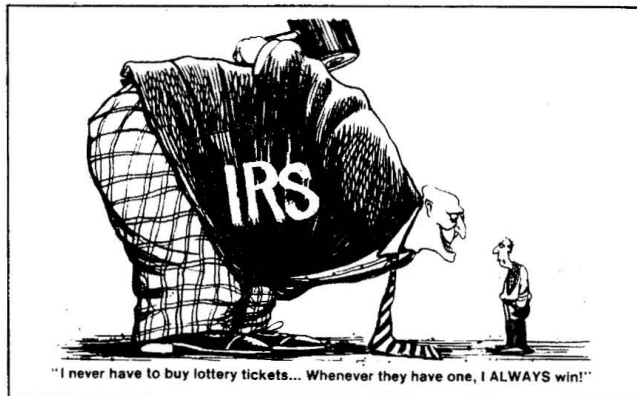
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TIME FOR LIBERTY accepts letters from readers for publication in our CITIZENS' VIEW section. Letters should be kept short and MUST include the name, address and phone number of the author (for verification purposes only). Letters will be selected at the discretion of the Editor, consistent with the purpose of TIME FOR LIBERTY, and may be edited for length and content. Send to:

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# TAKING US TO THE CLEANERS

## Another "protection" from the state

by Dirk Yandell

Occupational special-interest groups have a long history of using political influence to limit free enterprise and competition. A common practice is to promote legislation to require a license as a condition for entering an occupation or operating in a market. Lobbyists know it is very difficult to deregulate an industry once regulations are on the books.

An exception may be in the making. A current assembly bill (AB 183) proposes that the State Board of Fabric Care be abolished. This body has been the overseer of dry cleaning establishments since 1945 and currently licenses nearly 15,000 dry cleaners in California. It is fitting in these deregulatory times that lawmakers step back and consider the need for the licensing and regulation of occupations for the purpose of "protecting the consumer."

Licensing is defended by its proponents as necessary to ensure minimum standards of competency or quality. More often it has been used as a means of restricting entry, to limit competition and preserve the high wages earned by an existing group of practitioners. Licensing restricts the number of workers in an occupation by creating artificially restrictive qualifications for entry.

For example, only 40 percent of those who apply are granted licenses to open new dry cleaning businesses. The difficulty of the qualifying examination is controlled by the State Board, and

can be kept high to limit competition. This reduced competition results in higher prices for consumers.

Medical licensing boards in California and New York have also come under fire. At issue is the increasing number of foreign-trained physicians who are seeking licenses to practice medicine in the United States. Legislative hearings in California were held to investigate the actions of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance (BMQA).

Are actions designed to promote high-quality medical care or is the board protecting California physicians from competition at the expense of the consumers? The BMQA limits the number of accredited medical schools in the U.S., resulting in a multitude of highly qualified applicants being denied admission each year.

Restrictions on granting medical residencies also control the influx of would-be doctors. Consumers bear the burden of this reduced competition and pay higher medical bills. Consumers are not the only ones who lose. The unreasonable or arbitrary entry requirements for many occupations deny skilled workers the chance of achieving the profession of their choice.

Entry controls restrict competition and keep prices and profits high for those who are protected. Legislators too often forget this fact, and succumb to the pressure of the special interest groups. Lawmakers usually have

good intentions. "Protecting the consumer" is the cry most often heard, as lawmakers think that consumers need to be protected from shoddy quality and "unscrupulous" behavior.

This protection is to be accomplished by passing laws. Of course, the law is to be administered by the state board, consisting of "experts" in the business.

Economists have long recognized that California's state boards and commissions act in ways to restrain trade. Some board actions appear to be in direct violation of antitrust laws. The state is authorized to grant antitrust exemptions (so that trade restrictions are considered lawful) if there is independent state supervision of the occupation or trade. It is difficult to imagine supervision to be "independent" when an occupation is controlled by a state board consisting mainly of licensed members of that profession.

Literally hundreds of occupations require licenses. Licensing is required for auctioneers and architects, barbers and boxing promoters, plumbers and pest-control operators, real-estate agents and respiratory therapists. The list has

"The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws."

Tacitus, 56-120 A.D.


grown longer each year. The State Board of Fabric Care may be all washed up, but informed consumers must act to keep other licensing boards from taking the public to the cleaners.

In a free society, consumers are well equipped to protect themselves. The market forces of supply and demand lead to an efficient allocation of resources. A free exchange of goods and services, without the interferences and restrictions of government, is the most effective means of promoting efficiency and increasing public welfare.

Our legal system exists to provide the consumer recourse if work is not performed satisfactorily. A free market, and a legal system to protect private property, are all that is needed to "protect the consumer."--San Diego UNION, 5/14/85, submitted by Dick Rider

Dr. Yandell is assistant professor of economics at USD.

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# Insurance

## Investment Strategy

By Peter C. Lang

Let's talk about insurance this month. I know, it's a dull topic. But a little knowledge—particularly of insurance theory—can save you big bucks over the years.

There are only three things you can do about insurable risks. Everyone does some combination of the three: 1. minimize risk. 2. assume risk. 3. transfer risk.

The basic principles behind good insurance planning can be stated simply: Do everything practical to minimize your risks. Then carry insurance to transfer only those risks that you cannot afford or would feel uncomfortable assuming. Do not carry insurance against risks you can afford to take yourself.

Insurance companies must charge large enough premiums to accomplish three things: 1. pay all claims. 2. pay their sales expenses and general overhead. 3. earn a profit. (They must earn a profit to stay in business.)

For these reasons, only 50 or 60 cents on the premium dollar goes to pay claims. So the odds are against you. You probably will pay far more for insurance over your lifetime than you'll ever receive in benefits.

Most of my insurance recommendations to financial planning clients fall into two areas: 1. Take high deductibles. You can afford the first few hundred—or several hundred—dollars of a risk. Avoid so-called "first dollar" protection. 2. Be sure to carry enough bodily injury liability insurance. We live in an age of large jury awards and settlements.

For automobile liability, I recommend at least a "straight" \$300,000 (that level of protection whether one person or more is injured in an accident). I recommend at least \$300,000 in homeowner liability protection.

People with more to lose should carry additional protection. It doesn't cost much. A rule of thumb that works as well as any other is to carry protection at least equal to your net worth.

As a practical matter, this can be accomplished simply with an "umbrella" liability policy that costs \$100 to \$150 annually and extends bodily injury liability up to \$1 million, given adequate basic protection in auto and homeowners policies.

High deductibles can save a lot of money over the years, particularly in automobile insurance. It's not unusual for a client to find that he can raise both his deductibles and his liability protection and come out ahead in his premium bill.

Deductibles affect collision and comprehensive protection, in particular, in auto insurance. It's a good idea to skip collision coverage entirely in the case of older vehicles with small market value. You'll save a lot of money over a period of years—maybe enough to replace two or three such cars.

# Pay and Pay— And Pay Again

by Martha Gustafson

Many people realize that what is called "free, universal public education" is not free, is not universal, and is quite often nothing that could be accurately called education. Public education is, in fact, a monopoly which extracts so much money from taxpayers' and parents pockets that they literally have no choice but to send their children to public schools, because having paid once for education, they simply cannot afford to pay again for a private school for their children.

Parents search through the public schools, trying to find the best in a "rising tide of mediocrity," and occasionally finding what they think is a bright spot in the blight of public schools. Surely the parents whose students have been admitted to Bullard Project Talent in Fresno feel that they are fortunate indeed to have the bright children who qualify for this special program of "free" education. Imagine how those parents must feel when they find that in addition to their children, this school also wants their time to work in the school, and more of their money.

Bullard Talent parents all received a large packet when school began, and included was a letter that reads as follows: "Dear Talent Parent. The Talent Program provides many extra activities which are not available without your kindness and generosity. A \$15.00 contribution is needed from each student each semester. This donation only supports the special activities for your child's classroom and directly benefits your youngster's educational program. Payment is to be made by the third week of each semester (September 20 and February 18)."

"Please make your check payable to Bullard School. Thank you for your support." The letter is signed by the school principal.

Also included in the parent packet is a request for a \$5 donation to the school P.T.A. and 10 pages of forms for parents to fill out indicating what sort of work they can do at the school on a voluntary basis, and what sort of non-money

"donations" they can give. This school, which is fully staffed with tax-paid teachers, aides, clerical personnel, administrators, etc., is requesting that parents come to school to serve as tutors, office workers to do typing, filing, telephoning, etc., and to run, coordinate and provide the labor for projects ranging from crafts shows and Christmas parties to science fairs.

Students whose parents do not make the required "contribution" are asked daily in the classroom, in front of other students, when they plan to bring the money, and at times a list of students' names is placed on classroom blackboards, indicating which have not complied with the school's "request" for "donations."

In addition to the general elementary and middle school funding provided by FUSD to operate Bullard Talent, the school received over \$64,000 in E.C.I.A. Chapter 2 funding last year since it is a "magnet" school, and supposedly serves the social purpose of "integrating" students.

Where does all the money the parents contribute go? No one seems to be quite sure. It merely "directly benefits your youngster's educational program," in ways never explained to the parents who provide the money. Of course, local public educators have some strange ideas about what benefits youngster's educations, such as ad agency slogans to be painted on busses, \$300,000 school budget items called "Golden Handshake" for early retirees, and twenty-five \$50,000 per year administrators who don't work in schools. Parents pay, and taxpayers pay, and kids pay, and they all pay again, to get their share of "free" education in public schools.

*Martha Gustafson is a founding member of Parents Advocates for Children, a not for profit corporation dedicated to helping parents provide education opportunities for their children.*

# Half a Loaf by Todd Berquist

In the past year or so a lot has been written about "tax reform." A number of proposals have been put forth to "simplify" the income tax structure. These proposals include Kemp-Kasten, Bradley-Gephardt, the treasury department plan and Mr. Reagan's modified treasury proposal.

What position, if any, should Libertarians take regarding this game? Should we remain ideologically pure and stand aloof or enter the fray and dirty our hands a bit? If we take a long term view of "tax reform" or tax abolition, if you will, we can still maintain principle and gain half a loaf in the process.

How are we to do this? First, we must recognize that taxes will not go away overnight. Just as an infant can not be switched from the breast to solid food in one step, the beneficiaries of taxpayer largesse must be weaned. Making the income tax system less complex is a major contributor to this process.

The present system contains a plethora of deductions, tax credits, and adjustments to gross income to encourage this or discourage that, and each of these has its own constituency. If, over time, these deductions are reduced, then eliminated, and rates reduced and leveled, the constituencies can be weaned. There would then be a system in which all pay the same rate. With a single tax rate the only changeable factor, any increase would affect all and any decrease would affect all.

The expenditure side of the budget could then be addressed in earnest. By slowly reducing the various programs and simultaneously reducing the tax rate, our Libertarian goal could be reached.

I would encourage our readers' commentary. In forthcoming issues, this idea could be examined more thoroughly.

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*You and Me*  
By Dick Palmquist

Dick Palmquist is one of the 18 members serving on the Governor's Advisory Council on Small Business.

The next time you go to a potluck dinner, look around you. Learn something from it.

Potlucks are a perfect example of how nations could reach the goal of "providing to each one according to his need, from each according to his ability."

There are several kinds of potlucks, but no matter what kind you decide to hold, you are looking for:

**VARIETY.** You want enough different kinds of dishes to be brought to the big table so that everybody goes away with the feeling he has had a balanced meal. All meat, all salad, or all dessert would be a disaster.

**BALANCE.** You want the values of each dish brought to the table to be roughly balanced. That is, if most people attending have six children, yet the "moms" bring just enough to feed two people, somebody will go away hungry. The value, or quantity, of the total offerings on the table has to be at least equal to the appetite of the total group.

**QUALITY.** A potluck is a special celebration, so you want the whole thing to look as much like the first Thanksgiving spread as possible. New taste experiences and gourmet delights must be true of at least some of the dishes.

The question is, how do you set up a potluck dinner so you will get the best of all these desired goals?

Small groups must plan carefully. If your church has 15 families in membership, you will have to sit down and make a list and ask each family to be responsible to bring a different kind of food. Yet, just try planning that kind of a potluck and ending up with every participant happy. Somebody is going to complain that they were asked to bring the most expensive dish, that other people got off free of responsibility, that something about the dinner just wasn't fair.

Even partly planned potlucks featuring "beverage provided," will leave somebody unhappy that there wasn't too enough coffee or that the punch was too watery, or too sweet.

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Complete freedom is the only safe way to structure a potluck.

This lesson about freedom on a small scale should tell us something about providing for the needs of people on a larger national basis.

Comparing the 1960 poverty situation with poverty in 1970 and 1980, an article by Charles Murray in the Wilson Quarterly Autumn 1984 edition concludes that the great society of the Kennedy-Johnson years has created more poor people than before.

These Charts from the Wilson Quarterly article show what has happened in the United States to discourage the poor from bettering their lives. This chart shows options available to a young father in 1960.

Harold employed?	Living Together	
	Unmarried	Married
Yes	\$111	\$111
No	\$0	\$0

The same young father in 1980, is faced with these choices, thanks to the Great Society programs and Supreme Court decisions.

Harold employed?	Living Together	
	Unmarried	Married
Yes	\$270	\$136
No	\$134	\$134

"There is bitter irony," says Mr. Murray, "that poverty stopped dropping as spending on poverty increased, that labor-force participation decreased as the economy boomed, and that unemployment increased as the jobs programs reached their height..."

The "potluck control committees" were in full force during those years, and with good motivations. The problem is, the planners did not understand how to plan a good potluck.

What is the philosophical basis of a good potluck, anyhow?

First, a good potluck draws its success from **pride**. Each cook in the group wants to feel no shame as she approaches the table. The serving ladies will take each offering, place serving spoon in it, and study the contents carefully. Everybody knows that if you bring something of less value than you can afford, you will get a reputation for being a cheapskate.

It is the same way in the general economy. People are motivated by pride. They want to put good-looking clothing on their children, live in the best house possible, and within their ability, have the best possible reputation.

In a free society, the pride factor works toward higher rates of employment, but when you reward people for not working, this same pride factor will keep people at home, away from work.

Secondly, **greed** motivates a good potluck. You bring plenty of food yourself, because you know that there is going to be an opportunity to go back and refill your plate a time or two. You would not feel right about stuffing yourself if the dish you took to the table was too small, and not enough to serve at least your own family.

When people are free and unstructured, they give good measure in their jobs because they know that's the only way to get more money from the boss, and thus to be able to earn their way into a "second helping" in goods and services.

Third, **randomness** creates a successful potluck. When a club or church is large enough to provide statistical randomness, you don't need anybody to tell any cook what to bring. It will always balance out perfectly because people are different from each other. Varieties of tastes, preferences and desires will almost magically and automatically bring variety, balance, and fairness in quality to a potluck.

In the same way, when people in a free society are left to themselves, without social planners and government regulators trying to force some great scheme upon them, they provide a balance of services and goods that match exactly the needs of that society.

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## Legalize Drugs for a Safer U.S.

by James Bovard

There is an easy way for the United States to slash crime rates by more than 30%, revive many of the most devastated city neighborhoods, and save taxpayers up to \$10 billion a year.

All this could be achieved simply by recognizing the status quo—that regardless of legal penalties, tens of millions of Americans still will use illicit drugs. The issue is not whether drugs are harmful, but whether society is harmed more by drug laws than by the drugs themselves.

The Reagan administration's war on drugs is primarily clobbering innocent bystanders. In Northern California, Army helicopters buzzed houses, terrified cows and harassed families in their own front yards. In Los Angeles, the police department recently used a 14-foot steel battering ram to smash an occupied house wrongly suspected of being a heroin-shooting gallery. South Florida is now almost one big drug battlefield.

Yet, despite anti-drug saturation bombing, heroin and cocaine imports are soaring and drug prices have fallen (indicating a growing supply). Heroin is easily available on Washington streets less than a mile from the Drug Enforcement Administration's headquarters. Drugs are even rampant in the nation's prisons—the ultimate embarrassment for those who claim that heavier legal penalties can produce a drug-free nation.

And regardless of the diligence of the Border Patrol, America will soon see a flood of synthetic drugs. Basement chemists are synthetically duplicating heroin, cocaine, and other narcotics. A single chemist now can produce enough synthetic heroin to supply the entire nation. Synthetic drugs are far more potent—and therefore far more toxic—than their natural counterparts.

Many of the drugs currently outlawed are harmful. But drug laws are responsible for far more deaths than the drugs themselves. During Prohibition, thousands of people died every year from drinking booze made with wood alcohol. Today, most drug-induced deaths are due to impure, adulterated or badly-cut heroin and cocaine. Were those who died in the 1920s victims of their drinking—or of federal laws which drove the liquor business underground? If sleeping pills had the same wildly erratic doses as street heroin, middle-class housewives/husbands would be dying like flies.

Drug laws contribute to almost 50% of all crime committed in the U.S. Heroin addicts commit millions of burglaries and thefts to support their habit. Crime occurs not because of the drug's inherent evil, but because heroin is expensive and addicts are poor. A 1976 study in Detroit found heroin prices and crime rates rose and fell simultaneously. If drug laws did not make a 25-cent dose of heroin cost \$100, heroin addicts would not be compulsive thieves.

Contrary to widespread, federally subsidized myths, few illegal drugs breed violence. Marijuana puts many people to sleep, and heroin junkies are far more passive than drunks. PCP—angel dust—is the only widely used drug which sends people into violent frenzies. PCP is popular among young people largely because it is so cheap—an unsung triumph in the war against less harmful drugs like cocaine.

Would legalizing drugs result in more use? No one knows. Possession of marijuana has been decriminalized in 11 states, yet marijuana use by young people has nosedived. Marijuana is sold openly in Dutch cafes, yet Dutch youth have minimal interest in it.

The question is not whether drugs can be proscribed effectively—that is clearly a lost cause. The real issue is: Is the moral satisfaction gained from outlawing drugs worth the price America is paying?

Is it worth three million additional robberies and burglaries a year? Five million? Ten million? Is it worth countless wiretaps, an army of undercover agents, and a huge increase in government spying on the citizenry?

Perhaps more important, is it worth what we have foregone? How many more men were murdered and women raped while police indulged in a narcotics wild-goose chase? Is it worth clogging our courts and filling our jails with people whose crime was using or selling substances the "majority" disapproved—with less room left in prison for violent criminals?

The war on drugs has failed to stop drug imports, and will fail to stop a deluge of synthetic drugs. The only things our laws achieve is to make drugs more dangerous, crime more prevalent, and government more obnoxious. The sooner drug prohibition is repealed, the safer life in America will be.—TRIBUNE, 8/7

Bovard is a free-lance writer based in Washington, DC

## A Rice to the Subsidy Trough

Do government subsidies distort the economy? Butte County, in northern California, offers us some suggestive evidence in the case of rice farming. It seems that last year there were 75 new rice farm operations in the county; this year there are expected to be another 60. A robust local farm economy? Guess again.

What caught the eyes of some local journalists was the fact that during this expansion little or no new land was being put into production — understandably, since rice prices have plummeted and many well-established farmers are having a hard go of it. So what's happening? In the words of a local administrator of government rice subsidies, these new "farmers" are "farming the program."

One local farmer, who had applied for and received the maximum \$50,000 subsidy in 1983 decided that he would subdivide his farm and lease it to 11 other people in 1984, including members of his family, his employees, and his attorney, each of whom was now entitled to receive \$50,000. And for 1985 the number of operating units on his farm has jumped to 20, each claiming to be an individually financed, formed and operated farm, and each eligible for \$50,000 in subsidies, amounting to a cool one million dollars. Maybe in a free market rice farmers would spend more time sowing rice than reaping subsidies.

(Reprinted courtesy of National Taxpayers Union, 325 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003)

◆◆◆◆◆  
**License Plate of the Month**  
 Y TAXME

**Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.--William Pitt, 1783**



## Energy Crunch to Energy Glut

by The Cato Institute

Remember the energy crunch of the 1970's? The lines at gas stations? The gasoline rationing laws and home heating oil rationing laws? The learned talk by politicians, bureaucrats and so-called "experts" about how we were going to have to depend on synfuels and nuclear power in the future, and just get used to austerity where petroleum was concerned? The great fanfare with which President Jimmy Carter created the Department of Energy? Things have changed so much since those days that it's difficult to believe it all happened only a few years ago. It seems more like generations ago.

Today, petroleum is so plentiful and so cheap that OPEC is falling apart. Nuclear power and synfuels have come to be widely recognized as boondoggles, and the President of the United States has proposed abolishing the Department of Energy without touching off any public uproar at all. Why he hasn't gone through with it is something of a mystery.

What has brought about this dramatic change in our energy situation? Simply put, the government got out of the way of the market. Not completely, mind you. Government is still discouraging domestic oil production by prohibiting export of Alaskan oil. Government is still taking money from taxpayers to subsidize synfuels and nuclear power, but it has cut back radically from the extent of its interference in the energy market during the 1960s and 1970s. And the result is there for all to see: abundant energy at comparatively affordable prices. It kind of makes you wonder if we couldn't solve all our problems by just getting government out of them, doesn't it—Jeff Riggenbach

### Is it Fair?

Many think we can decide fairness by looking at how things are. We can't. Fairness depends on how they got that way.

Advocates of a faulty doctrine called "comparable worth" say it is unfair that women in certain jobs are paid less than men in other jobs these advocates deem equally valuable. Some American auto makers say it is unfair that the Japanese can sell their cars for less than their American counterparts. Advocates of income redistribution say it is unfair for wealthy people to accumulate more wealth than others.

But these inequalities are not necessarily unfair. They might be, of course. Suppose the women are paid less because the men have a union which forces employers (through violent strikes) to pay them above-market wages. That would be unfair. Or suppose the Japanese can sell their cars for less because the U.S. government imposes quotas on the number of American cars sold. That would be unfair. Suppose wealthy people receive more income than others

because the government gives them other people's money. That, too, would be unfair. Each of these situations would be unfair—not because of their inequality, but because they occur through force.

On the other hand, if the wages are freely negotiated and agreed upon, if Japanese cars sell cheaper because Japanese auto workers produce more for less pay, if the rich make their money by providing a desired product at an affordable price, all is fair no matter how unequal. We might not choose these outcomes, but they are fair.

Process determines fairness—fair process, fair outcome. If a process involves force and legal privilege, its outcome is unfair, though equality itself. But as long as a process is free and peaceful, its outcome is fair.

This is why the market process—free, peaceful exchange—embodies economic justice.—Howard Baetjer Jr.

(Reprinted from *The Freeman*, a publication of the Foundation for Economic Education.)

**Death and Taxes, In That Order:** Nelson Rockefeller should have listened when he said, "I've never wanted to be vice president of anything." It seems that after he spent nearly \$500,000 on legal fees to prepare him for Senate Confirmation Hearings (apparently he needed to buy a lot of legality), he deducted it as a business expense (a working stiff's gotta look for a job, right?). The IRS disallowed it and the family is still appealing the decision—six years after his death! Mr. Rockefeller was unavailable for comment. (Willmar, Minn.) *West Central Tribune*, 7/20/85

**Holy Toledo! Peeling, But Not Appealing:** A charge against an adult bookstore entertainer of pandering obscenity was dismissed in Toledo, Ohio Municipal Court because the arresting officer was not sexually aroused. The court ruled that since the show didn't appeal to the officer's "prurient interest," it didn't meet the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of obscenity. Capt. Derwish Mohamed, head of the special police squad, fumed, "We are going to keep arresting them. . . even if I have to find an officer whose prurient interest will be honestly offended, no matter how long that takes." It occurs to me that if this is made part of the officers' entrance exam, then Toledo should have no problem getting recruits. (*Duluth News-Tribune & Herald*, 8/2/85)

**Psycho-prison, USA:** Judy Cordie, a Fergus Falls, Minnesota resident, recounted in Congressional testimony how she and her husband were imprisoned in a mental hospital without trial and held incommunicado for over three months. The Cordies, being self-described "strict Christians," refused to send Mrs. Cordie's 9-year-old daughter from another marriage to public school. Local welfare officials then took the daughter from the home. Three months later the couple was arrested and sent to a state mental hospital for "delusional religious beliefs."

While in the hospital they were separated, refused privacy, and denied permission to study the Bible. Mrs. Cordie was struck by a male patient and knocked off her feet. She testified, "I was physically forced to take a psychotic drug to get rid of my religious preoccupation." The drugs made her ill. Months after their internment, a lay worker for the private Mental Health Association of Minnesota learned of their case and got them released.

The lay advocate, Bill Johnson, described the case as "one of the worst abuses of civil rights" he had ever seen, but also said a Minnesota appeals court ruled the involuntary commitment was proper. Minnesota Department of Human Services hospitals division chief John Clawson responded, "To the best of my knowledge, she received an appropriate course of treatment." (Which speaks poorly of either Mr. Clawson's best knowledge, or his idea of "appropriate.") Mrs. Cordie's summation of the experience was that had it not been for Mr. Johnson's intervention, "I'd either be a vegetable, or be dead." (*Duluth News-Tribune & Herald*, 8/3/85)

### Dishing It Out

The San Diego City Council passed an ordinance restricting installation of satellite dishes which will be "in view from public property."

### Be Forewarned

"[The Soviets] like to control the spread of information. They are not going to allow a proliferation of [satellite TV receiving] antennas."—"Soviet expert," NBC TV News, 8/20

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# Calendar of Libertarian Events

## Marginal Works of Art

### Bureaucracy Inspired Sculptures

by Ronald G. Shafer

- September 11  
Wednesday Evening  
(Time to be announced)  
Introduction to Libertarianism  
Hosted by Thomas Jefferson Society  
at California State University, Fresno  
Student Union  
(upstairs)
- September 25  
7:00 pm  
Wednesday  
Business Meeting  
Candidates for November District  
Elections  
Jobs for Remainder of Year
- September 27  
7:00  
Friday  
Friday Night Film Series Continues  
with another block buster smash hit!
- Oct. 9  
7/8-9:30 pm  
Public Program Meeting  
Carnation Restaurant  
1089 E. Shaw
- Oct. 26  
7:30 pm  
Wednesday  
Business Meeting  
Fall Line-up
- Oct. 14  
7:30 pm  
Monday  
Introduction to Libertarianism  
—Rational Politics Explained—  
Location to be announced
- Nov. 5  
District Elections

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC CALL 297-1776 for specific details. (299-0509 eves.)

WASHINGTON—The end of the government's budget year, at midnight Monday, will be rung out with a "Happy Fiscal New Year" cultural event: the unveiling of 35 sculptures inspired by bureaucracy.

The artist is James H. Boren, the founder and president of the International Association of Professional Bureaucrats, a group dedicated to the principle of "dynamic inaction." Its slogan: "When in doubt, mumble."

The "marginal works of art" to be displayed include "Tax Reform," a motorized construction, with an eagle on top and flags and loops all over. "When you flip the switch," Mr. Boren says, "loopholes move back and forth; some go in circles, and others move from one part of the tax law to another." The flags wave, he says, "because a tax bill must be seen as patriotic."

#### 'Fiscal Clunkalities'

Then there is "Air Force," which is shaped like an airplane and has wings that flap when a crank is turned. Its engine is a coffee pot "powered by decaffeinated coffee beans." The sculpture, Mr. Boren says, is a tribute to "corporate and government collaboration in fiscal clunkalities" in defense procurement.

"The Committee" features arrows pointing in opposite directions. This, of course, illustrates the idea that "nothing is impossible until it is sent to a committee."

Pondering is in fact one of the bases of Mr. Boren's organization, a spoof group he founded in 1968 after working as a State Department official and a congressional aide. Its avowed goal, he says, is to cut red tape—"lengthwise." Its emblem is a scrawny bird tangled in red tape, initialed memos and phrases on gobbledygook. Occasionally, the group awards an "Order of the Bird" for excesses in bureaucracy, but nobody, it seems, ever wants to accept the potbellied statuette.

### Congressional Problem

The Capitol Architect is looking into reports that workers in the Cannon, Dirksen and Russell office buildings on the Hill are being exposed to 20 to 35 times the amount of asbestos considered dangerous by the EPA. The problem only came to light recently because Congress exempts itself from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements.

### Bells and Yo-Yos

The piece de resistance of Mr. Boren's exhibit will be "The Congress," a 52-inch-high motorized sculpture with two towers, tiny clowns, waving flags, bells and yo-yos. There also is a hand that comes forward with its palm up. The work, Mr. Boren says, depicts how the leaders in Congress "must overcome the posturing flag wavers, the shuffling clowns, the itchy palms, the back scratchers, the loophole artists, the yo-yos and the clanging sounds of the ever-present dingalings."

He notes that the Congress sculpture runs at two speeds: "Routine, or slow motion," and "image-oriented high speed." But, he adds, "regardless of the speed, productivity is at a constant and minimal rate."


From The Wall Street Journal

### It Takes All Kinds

ELVIN VILLANUEVA of Utuado, Puerto Rico, wrote his Congressman asking for help in getting a seat on an upcoming space shuttle for GOD. VILLANUEVA said he was worried because, "OUR LORD, WHO IS IN HEAVEN, HAS BEEN TRYING FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS TO DESCEND TO EARTH, BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ON ACCOUNT OF LACK OF TRANSPORTATION." His letter was referred to NASA.

1985

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Libertarian Party of Fresno County  
Box 5039  
Fresno, CA 93755  
(209) 297-1776

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address  h  w \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

California Membership (\$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

or

Combined California & National Membership (\$30) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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