

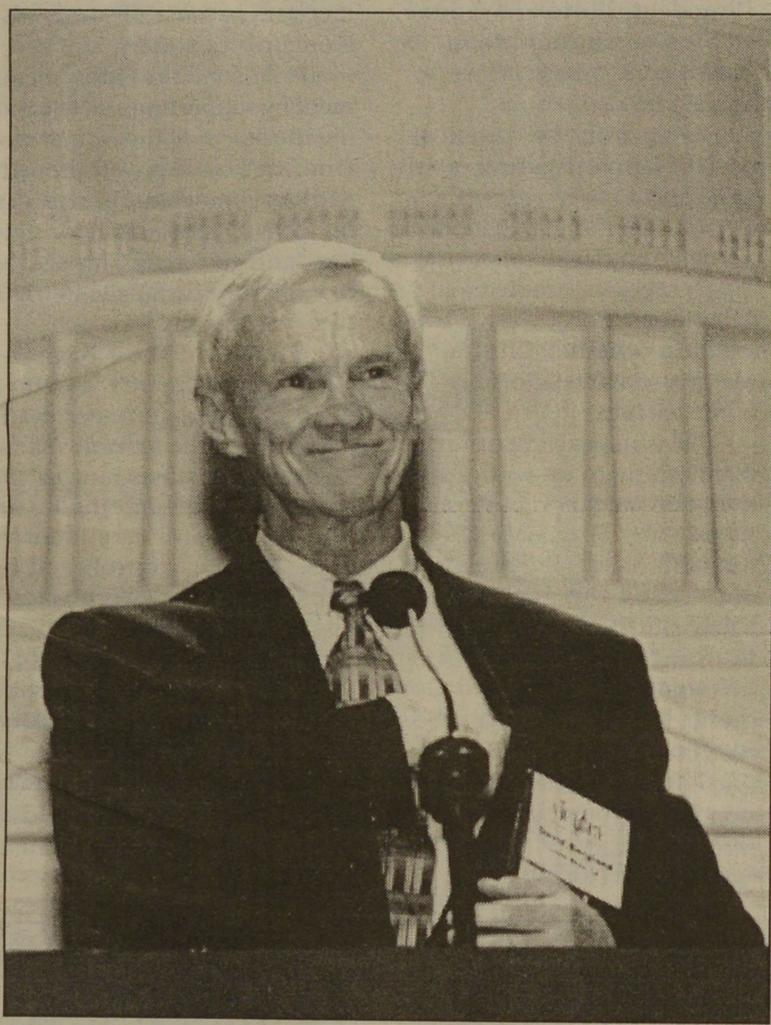
# LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle

August 1998

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 13 / Issue 8

## Convention '98: "Time to get to work!"



■ New LP National Chairman David Bergland, following his election victory: "Nothing is more important for us to recognize than the challenge presented to us by the huge numbers of new members we will see in the next two years. My message to every party member is: The new members are coming — get ready to welcome them and put them to work."

### CONVENTION '98: OVERVIEW

## Bergland elected National Chair

Over a long, balmy Fourth of July weekend in Washington DC, delegates at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention elected David Bergland as new party chairman, tweaked the wording of the party's platform — and emerged from the four-day get-together "with a new sense of purpose and motivation."

In addition, delegates made several significant changes to the party's bylaws, elected new members of the Libertarian National

Committee, and were entertained and educated by an eclectic line-up of speakers, workshops, and panel discussions.

#### "The Road to Victory"

More than 800 Libertarians from around the USA participated in the party's 17th national convention — titled "The Road to Victory" — which was held in the cavernous Washington Convention Center in the nation's capital from July 2-5, 1998.

About a dozen hours of the

convention were broadcast on C-SPAN, either live or on tape delay, and generated about 3,500 inquiries via the party's toll-free 800# and World Wide Web, said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger.

In addition, more than 11,000 hits were recorded to AENNET.COM, a website which broadcast an audio-feed of upwards of 24 hours of convention speakers and business from the main convention hall.

See **CONVENTION** Page 8

## Delegates vote: Impeach Clinton

The Libertarian Party has asked the U.S. House of Representatives to begin Articles of Impeachment against President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore, in accordance with a resolution passed by delegates at the National Convention.

On July 15, the party sent letters to House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, formally re-

### Complete Convention Coverage: Pages 8-15

questing that the "United States House begin Articles of Impeachment" against Clinton and Gore.

The action followed the party's national convention in Washington, DC, where delegates approved a resolution urging Clinton's impeachment.

Passed overwhelmingly by

voice vote on Sunday, July 5, the motion called for Clinton and Gore to be removed from office for "violation of their oath of office, specifically their failure to uphold and defend the United States Constitution."

In the letters to Gingrich and Gephardt, the party's national director Ron Crickenberger wrote: "Given their scandalously bad record of protecting the ba-

See **IMPEACHMENT** Page 2

## LP helps squash yet another Congressional pay raise

Thirteen days after the Libertarian Party joined a coalition to fight another "unprecedented, unethical, and underhanded" Congressional salary increase, a House subcommittee voted to kill the \$3,554 pay hike.

"We're proud that we could play a role in stopping Congress from picking the pockets of American taxpayers again," said former LP National Chair Steve Dasbach, who had signed a letter from the Congressional Ac-

countability Project on May 29 protesting the raise.

The letter, addressed to House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, blasted the pay hike as an "arrogant, greedy, corrupt affront to the American taxpayers," and demanded that Congress "publicly reject this pay raise."

In response to the pressure put on Congress by the broad-based coalition — which included Citizens Against Govern-

ment Waste, the Free Congress Foundation, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the Reform Party — the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, & General Government voted on June 11 to kill the raise.

#### Shame U.S. Congress

"This is a small victory, but a victory nonetheless," said Dasbach. "It shows that when proper pressure is applied, it is even possible to shame the U.S. Congress into doing what is right. It also

shows that the Libertarian Party's clout is being increasingly recognized — which is why we were asked to join this coalition."

The raise, had it passed, would have been the second Congressional pay hike approved in five months.

"Congress is still spending too much and taxing too much," said Dasbach. "But, this time at least, we stopped them from rewarding themselves for their bad behavior with another undeserved pay raise."

## INSIDE

### ■ PAGE 3

Another Browne runs for public office

### ■ PAGE 4

Libertarians make front page of WSJ

### ■ PAGE 4

Anti-Drug War sheriff faces tough re-election campaign

# NEWSBRIEFS

## Agency shuts down British Columbia LP

The Libertarian Party of British Columbia (Canada) was a month late in filing its annual election expenditure report — and now the party has been shut down by the province's election commission, and party members face thousands of dollars in fines and possible jail time.

"It's insane," said Paul Geddes, the party's treasurer.

The party ran afoul of the 1995 Election Act, a campaign "reform" that was supposed to clean up shady fundraising, but, instead, turned the province's election commission — Elections B.C. — into a "lumbering, costly bureaucracy" that is "bent on enforcing the rules at the expense of any common sense or reason," according to a local newspaper columnist.

On the bureaucrats' hit list: The British Columbia LP, which was late in filing three pages of paperwork detailing \$5,000 in campaign expenses for its 17 candidates in the 1996 elections.

As punishment for the infraction, the Elections B.C. commission shut down the party, demanded the \$316 in the party's bank account, and warned party members that they can't accept donations or run for office. As party treasurer, Geddes also faces a possible year in jail, and the commission said the LP must pay a \$20,000 fine to get re-registered as a political party.

The party is now considering a constitutional challenge to the 1995 Election Act, which party member Ron Gillespie described as "a terrible threat to political freedom."

## Libertarian cruise planned for January

The second annual Libertarian cruise will take place early next year — and Libertarian Party members from around the USA are invited to participate.

If you sign up, you'll enjoy "a week of fun and relaxation," promised LNC member Ken Bisson, who is coordinating the trip.

"I would guarantee that you'd have a great time" on the "seven-day adventure" for Libertarians, he said. Already signed up for the trip, he noted: Harry and Pamela Browne.

The cruise takes place in the Eastern Caribbean from January 24-31, 1999. The ship, *Enchantment of the Seas* (of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line), will sail from Florida.

Staterooms start at \$852 per person. Deadline for reserving cabins: August 27, 1998.

For more information, call Bisson at: (219) 833-6700. Or, sign up for e-mail information: kbisson@usa.net. Or, check out the World Wide Web site: <http://members.tripod.com/~kbisson>.

## LP pioneer Marshall Bruce Evoy dies

Marshall Bruce Evoy, the founder of the Libertarian Party of Canada and a director of the International Society of Liberty (ISIL), died on July 8 in Toronto. He was 75.

"Bruce had a lot of admirers in the Libertarian Party, including me," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "He was one of the most kind persons I ever met. When you met Bruce, you instantly felt that you had a new friend."

Evoy died of natural causes after several years of failing health — but left behind a long legacy of political action.

He founded the Libertarian Party of Canada in 1973, and co-founded the Ontario Libertarian Party in 1974. He was a Nathaniel Branden Institute representative in Toronto during the '60s and later joined the Board of Directors of ISIL.

"He is particularly well known for his electrifying performances in period costume of Revolutionary War hero Patrick Henry and has performed the famous 'Give me liberty or give me death' speech for innumerable libertarian gatherings in the U.S. and abroad," said ISIL president Vincent Miller.

"At the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, DC, in 1996, Bruce performed as George Washington, delivering his 'Farewell Address.' This was covered on C-SPAN and earned him a standing ovation," he said. "He also performed as Thomas Jefferson, reading the Declaration of Independence on the steps of the Jefferson Monument."

"We are saddened by the death of a dear friend and heroic soul — but are relieved that his suffering is over," said Miller.

# Party demands Clinton impeachment

Continued from Page 1

basic civil and economic liberties of the American people, it is imperative that the United States House begin Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton and Vice President Gore."

The party called for impeachment hearings to begin immediately.

At press time, Crickenberger said the party had not received any response from Gingrich or Gephardt — but noted that the silence didn't surprise him.

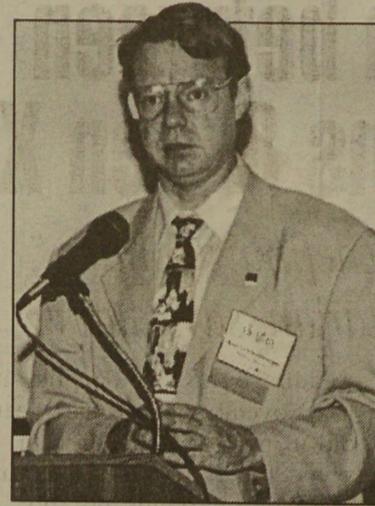
"The Democrats have circled the wagons around Clinton, and will defend him at all costs," he said. "Meanwhile, the Republicans are afraid to try to impeach a popular president — and, besides, they are guilty of most of the same crimes that Clinton is guilty of. I suspect both parties will do their best to ignore our request."

### Immediate attention

However, the party's action did attract immediate attention from the media, said the party's press secretary, George Getz.

"As far as I know, we are the first major political party to actually call for Clinton's impeachment," he said. "Our action generated a flurry of talk radio interviews, and a number of newspaper mentions. We seem to have struck a nerve — especially with some conservatives who wish the Republican Party had the guts to do what we've done."

One aspect of the party's impeachment request that seemed to intrigue the media, said Getz, was that it had nothing to do with the current sex-and-lies investigation of the president.



■ LP National Director Ron Crickenberger: "What [President Clinton has] done to the Constitution should be classified as a hate crime."

In fact, in his letter to Gingrich and Gephardt, Crickenberger specifically noted that the Libertarian Party wasn't interested in whether Clinton lied about a sexual relationship with a White House intern.

"This impeachment request has nothing to do with the ongoing investigation of President Clinton by Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr," he wrote. "We are making this request based solely on the violations of the Constitution that have been perpetrated by Clinton and Gore during the time they have been in office."

The party documented a long list of constitutional violations in the letter, noting that Clinton and Gore:

■ Violated the First Amendment by supporting censorship of the Internet and by demanding a ban on commercial advertising by cigarette companies.

■ Violated the Second Amendment by signing the Brady Bill and by banning so-called "assault weapons."

### National ID cards

■ Violated the Fourth Amendment by restricting the right of Americans to employ encryption technology to prevent government spying on electronic communications; and by supporting legislation that will mandate national ID cards with biometric identifiers.

■ Violated the Fifth Amendment by supporting and expanding the power of the federal government to seize private property without compensation under asset forfeiture laws; and by signing "anti-terrorism" legislation that sharply curtailed the right of habeas corpus.

■ Violated the Ninth and Tenth Amendments — which reserve all power not specifically delegated to the federal government to the states and to the people — by attempting to put America's health care industry under federal control; and by numerous other executive actions and decrees.

"Clinton has the worst record on civil liberties since Richard Nixon, and the worst record on economic issues since Fidel Castro," explained Crickenberger. "Based on his record as president, Clinton deserves impeachment."

## Another legislative miss for Ron Paul's ballot access bills

For the second time in two months, Congressman Ron Paul's (R-TX) ballot access bills were almost considered by the U.S. House — but fell victim to the clock instead.

On July 20, Paul planned to introduce two bills — HR 2477 (the Voter Freedom Act) and HR 2478 (the Debate Freedom Act) — as "perfecting amendments" to the Shays-Meehan campaign reform bill, which the House was debating.

However, the House ran out of time before the proposals could be considered, said Paul's legislative director, Joe Becker.

A month earlier, Paul had hoped to introduce one of the ballot access bills as an amendment, but the House ran out of time for the scheduled debate,

and then went into recess.

In both cases, Libertarians cranked up a lobbying effort to win support for the proposals — generating hundreds of calls, faxes, and e-mails to Congress.

### Not in vain

But Libertarians' efforts "haven't been in vain," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "Every time a party member calls Congress about these bills, it makes it more likely they will be remembered — and supported. There's a cumulative effect to our lobbying efforts."

At press time, Becker said there was a chance the two amendments would be considered during the week of July 27-31, when the House plans to again debate campaign finance reform.

## LP NEWS

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# New book highlights connection between Libertarians & Gen X

*New generation is "redefining politics," and many lean libertarian, says author*

Generation X voters are "re-defining politics" and "tearing up the American political landscape" — and they're doing so by rejecting traditional party affiliations and, instead, turning increasingly to third parties like the Libertarian Party.

That's one of the conclusions of *A New Kind of Party Animal*, a new non-fiction book by Michele Mitchell, published in July by Simon & Schuster.

The book, written by a 27-year-old former Washington DC communications director and National Public Radio correspondent, examines how the 80-million-strong "baby-busters" are bringing about "a fundamental transformation in American politics" by rejecting party loyalty, by supporting local problem solving, and by embracing computers.

Although the book is not primarily about third-party politics, the Libertarian Party makes a half-dozen appearances throughout the text, and is credited as one of the political organizations that is taking advantage of these new trends in politics.

For example, Mitchell notes that while support for the "major" parties by 18-35 year-old voters was falling, membership in "the Libertarian Party increased by 20 percent."

## No formal affiliation

The book also contains an anecdote about Harry Browne, the LP's 1996 presidential candidate. Noting that 60% of 18-35s have no formal party affiliation, but tend to support candidates based on the issues and other considerations, Mitchell wrote:

"After the 1996 election, the Libertarian Party examined [this Generation X phenomenon] closely. Their presidential candidate, Harry Browne, went to a

wedding of his wife's nephew in late November, where a 22-year-old woman approached him. 'I voted for you,' she said, 'and many of my friends did, too.'

"Browne stared at her. He had been forewarned by her parents that she was the liberal of the family. 'Well,' he said, 'how did that happen?'

" 'We saw you on *Politically Incorrect*,' she said. 'We were all impressed with the way you took the ribbing. You stood for something and you weren't defensive about it.' "

To research the book, Mitchell conducted interviews with both Browne and former LP National Director Perry Willis.

## Affirms

The LP's Director of Communications Bill Winter said the book affirms some things that the party has been saying for several years.

"We've always said that the Libertarian Party is the future of American politics, and that Generation X is the most libertarian generation in American history, thanks to their general distrust of government solutions and their social tolerance.

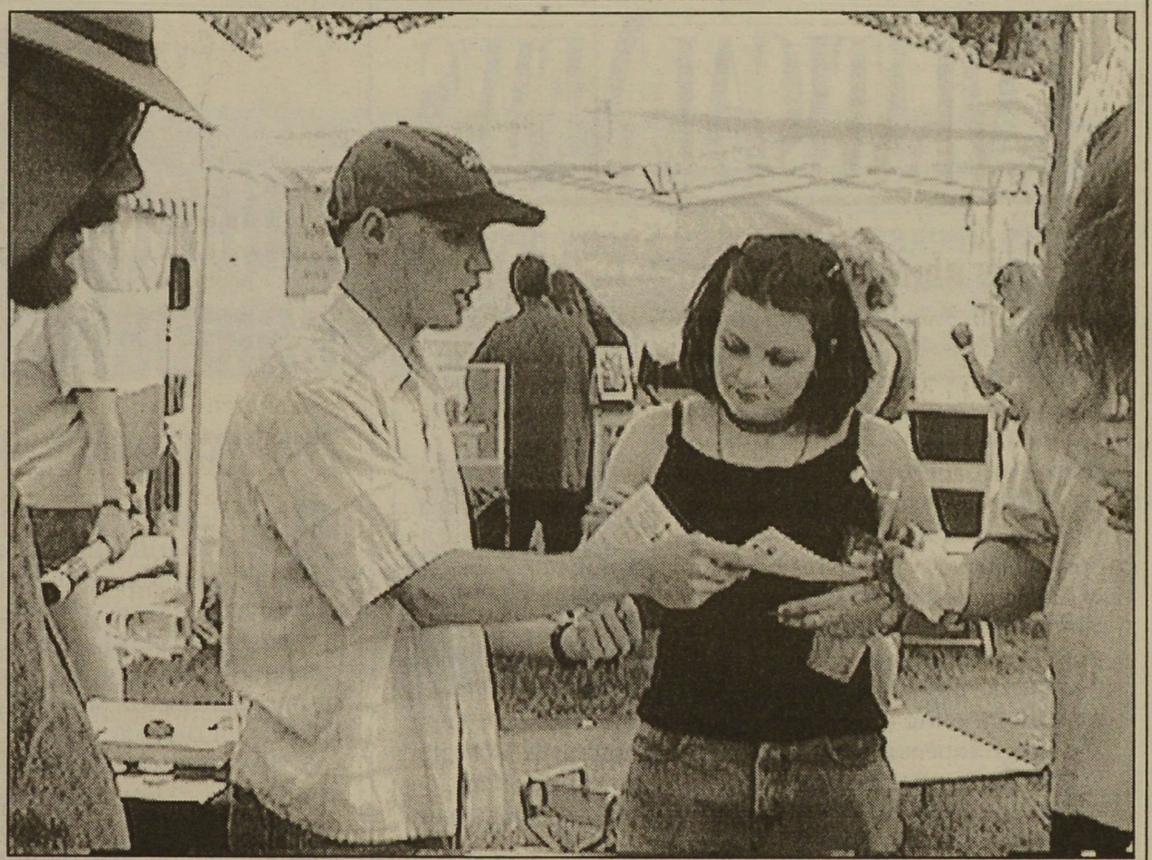
"It's nice to see that *A New Kind of Party Animal* confirms, in a small way, some of these trends — and publicizes them to a general audience."

*A New Kind of Party Animal* is in bookstores now.

It is described as a "road map to understanding the future of American society and politics," and has won pre-publication praise from the *Chicago Tribune*, Senator Bob Kerrey, and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

## Got News?

(About Libertarian activity or political success?)  
Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226



## Reaching the "people" in Colorado

A young Colorado resident gets more information about the Libertarian Party. Colorado LP members hosted an outreach booth at the "People's Fair" in downtown Denver on June 6 and 7, giving the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" to hundreds of people and collecting dozens of names. "The booth was a big success," said LP member W. Earl Allen.

# Like political father, like daughter: Another Browne throws hat in ring

Two years after Harry Browne ran for President of the United States, his daughter is following in his political footsteps: She's now running for State Assembly in California as a Libertarian.

Autumn Browne, 40, a drama teacher at Brookhurst Junior High School in Anaheim, California, is the LP candidate in the state's 67th District — and said the top priority in her campaign will be to publicize the Libertarian Party.

"I was shocked to find out there was a party out there that felt the way I did," said Browne, describing her first exposure to the party — which happened in 1995 when she learned that her father was running for president. "Maybe I can reach someone else who feels the same way."

## Campaign advice

The campaign for State Assembly is Autumn Browne's second experience in politics; her first was with her father's campaign, helping with fundraising. And now he's returning the favor by giving her campaign advice, she said.

His first suggestion: "Get out there and do as much speaking as possible," she recounted.



■ Autumn Browne: "My dad has always been a great supporter of everything I do."

And that shouldn't be difficult for her.

"Her background has made her very comfortable speaking in front of people," said Harry Browne, referring to his daughter's previous experience doing stand-up comedy.

And if she gets elected, Harry Browne said, he hopes she can have "the same kind of influence [Congressman] Ron Paul does" — perhaps as the lone Libertarian in the State Assembly who is willing to vote against a bad bill.

"My dad has always been a great supporter of everything I do," Autumn Browne said. "He

always reminded me that everything I have, I earned: He didn't give it to me and the government didn't give it to me."

In her campaign, education reform will be the biggest issue, she said: "Public schools are so watered down. They try to be everything to everybody and end up being nothing to everybody."

As the Libertarian solution, she said she will advocate privatizing schools and giving parents a choice in the education of their children.

In addition, Browne said she uses her current teaching position to let people know about the party, by keeping posters and LP literature in her classroom.

"In my own small way, I'm spreading the message," she said.

## "Small way"

And she had words of praise for other Libertarians who do what they can — in their own "small way" — to help the LP succeed.

"Congratulations to every member and especially to everyone who takes that step to run for office," she said. "Anyone who works with the party should be applauded for their courage and their belief in the dream of making America better."

# POLITICAL NEWS

## Jesse Jackson endorses Kubby proposal

A chance meeting with the Rev. Jesse Jackson in an airport turned into an endorsement of LP gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby's efforts to implement Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative approved by California voters.

Kubby, heading home from the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, DC, spoke with Jackson at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on July 5 — and won verbal support for his plan to allow medical marijuana to be prescribed by a doctor without government oversight.

"It's refreshing to find an individual of Rev. Jackson's stature to stand up for what's right," said Kubby after the meeting.

Jackson wished Kubby well in his efforts, and said, "When a doctor advises that marijuana would be a good remedy to ease people's pain and suffering, politicians shouldn't interfere."

Proposition 215, the controversial initiative that legalized medical marijuana in California, has run into resistance from Republican and Democratic politicians, who have demanded a state registry and photo I.D.s for medical marijuana patients.

By contrast, Kubby's plan, which he announced at a press conference in June, would allow doctors and patients to make decisions about medical marijuana — and would keep the government out of the process.

Kubby said his plan would "allow sick people access to medicine without fear. It's time to stop arresting sick people."



■ LP candidate Steve Kubby tells Jackson: "It's time to stop arresting sick people."

## Republicans target Libertarian voters

It's election season — which means that Republicans are pretending to be Libertarians again.

That's especially true in California, where registered Libertarians in the 43rd Congressional District received a letter from Republican Congressman Ken Calvert asking for their vote in the state's open primary in June — and promising, "I am philosophically the most in touch with your views."

In his effort to sweet-talk Libertarian voters, Calvert used the "L-word" twice in his letter, vowing that he was "in agreement with the Libertarian Party's views" on the Second Amendment, health care, eliminating the IRS, and other issues.

But at least one long-time LP political expert was a little suspicious of the Republican's sales pitch.

"If all these Republicans agree with us so much, how come the federal government keeps getting bigger?" asked Ron Crickenberger, LP National Director. "It's a mystery!"

## LP candidate out-fundraises Democrat

It's not often that a Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate raises more money than his "major party" opponent — but that's what Jack Iannantuono has done in Pennsylvania.

During May and June, Iannantuono's Senate campaign was more successful at raising money than Bill Lloyd, his Democratic opponent, according to campaign financial documents.

During those two months, Iannantuono raised \$18,815, and as of June 30, had more than \$14,500 cash on hand. At the same time, the Democrat raised only \$13,674, with only \$1,262 cash on hand — and \$60,500 in debts.

One other crucial difference: While Lloyd can spend his money on advertising, Iannantuono has been forced to spend money to simply get on the ballot.

"We need to get 35,000 signatures [to qualify]," said Iannantuono. "Our first challenge is to hurdle the barriers people like [incumbent Republican Senator] Specter and Lloyd put in our path as they try to protect themselves from competition."

## CAMPAIGN '98 REPORT

# Libertarian sheriff faces tough campaign over Drug War stand

*Pro-legalization sheriff opposed by well-financed Republican*

San Miguel County (Colorado) Sheriff Bill Masters has faced four re-elections during his 23 years in law enforcement, but this fall he faces not only a well-financed Republican opponent, but the issue of the War on Drugs as well.

"The drug war is a failure," said Masters. "Most government actions to address social problems are failures. But the drug war is the biggest single failure of our recent government actions. Spending 30 billion [dollars] a year wouldn't be so bad if it worked — but it doesn't. We need to decriminalize these drugs."

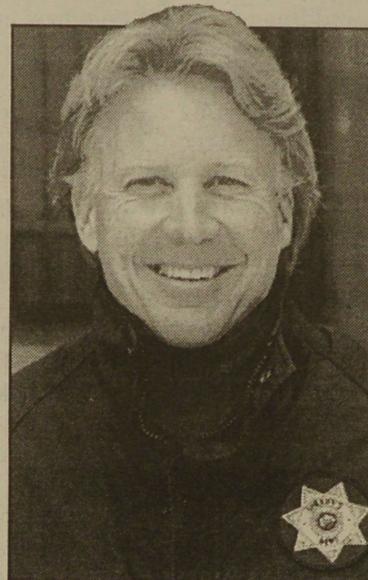
Masters not only keeps Libertarian Party literature in his office at the county jail, but has even drawn up a personal statement on the drug war into a brochure he distributes.

"I'm charged with upholding the laws of Colorado, but that does not stop me from speaking out on what needs to be changed," he said.

### Joined in 1997

Masters first registered Libertarian in 1974, but drifted to the Republican Party in the '80s. He resigned from the Republicans, registered independent, and then officially joined the Libertarian Party in January 1997.

Masters has been outspoken not only on the drug war, but



■ Sheriff Bill Masters: "The drug war is the biggest failure of government actions."

also on his Libertarian Party affiliation.

In a recent interview with the *Telluride Times Journal*, Masters was quoted as saying, "I have very strong Libertarian feelings, and am a member of the Libertarian Party. I believe that our government has gotten away

*Want to see your campaign featured in LP News? Send a good quality photo and campaign information to: Libertarian Party, Attn: Ron Crickenberger, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037.*

from basic ideals of individual liberty and personal responsibility. I think that is our number one problem in the criminal justice system. We're trying to make everyone obey what has gotten to be a ridiculous amount of laws and we're almost allowing people, because of that, excuses for their behavior."

Masters will get help for his campaign from his wife, Jill — who also helps in his office. Jill is a paramedic and deputy with the Sheriff's office, in addition to taking care of their four children.

### Different in 1998

Masters has lived in San Miguel County, a resort area with a population of some 6,000 residents, for most of his life. He has been sheriff for 18 years, and has been unopposed for two of four elections. But things will be different in 1998.

"They (the Republicans) will be coming at me hard this time because of my stand against the drug war," he said. "They are already making it an issue. It's the main reason I have an opponent for this race. I expect I'll have to run harder than I ever have before, but I do expect to win."

■ CONTRIBUTIONS to the campaign may be sent to: Committee to Re-elect Bill Masters, P.O. Box 3808, Telluride, CO 81435.

## LP defense of Microsoft is front-page news

The Libertarian Party defended Microsoft when practically no one else would — and it earned Libertarians a front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Libertarians were credited by the nation's leading business newspaper as the "loudest protesters" against the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft in a front-page story on June 9.

The story — entitled, "Freedom fighters: Antitrust suits expand, and Libertarians ask, Who's the bad guy?" — quoted the party's then-chairman Steve

Dasbach, LP Press Secretary George Getz, and Lisa Stronawski, a libertarian student at George Washington University in Washington DC, who also works as an intern at LP headquarters.

### Foremost hotbed

Noting that "by wading into the world of computers, federal trustbusters also have waded straight into the country's foremost hotbed of libertarian political activism [the Internet]," the story outlined a wide range of libertarian action against the antitrust suit — including a study

from the Cato Institute, a protest by Libertarian students, and an LP press release on the subject.

LP leaders said the story was another piece of evidence of the party's increasingly important role in American politics.

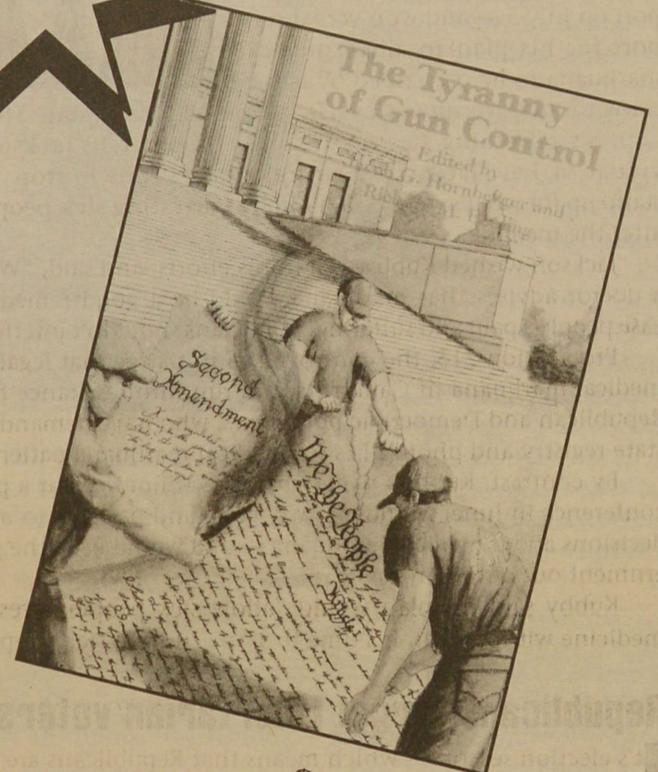
"When you read a front-page story about how the Libertarian Party is playing a major role in defending free enterprise, you realize that all our hard work is finally paying off," said National Director Ron Crickenberger. "Now, our job is to get enough influence to shut down this kind of harmful action by the Justice Department, once and for all."

# Why does the government want your guns?

Our Founding Fathers knew, over 200 years ago: the biggest threat to the safety and well-being of a citizenry lies not with some foreign government but rather with its own government. "To preserve liberty," wrote Richard Henry Lee, "it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them."

"But our government is a democracy. It would never do anything to harm us." Now, the book that explodes this myth, and a good many others as well. In 14 lucid chapters, here's the case for gun sanity, from The Future of Freedom Foundation. Major themes:

- ✓ Why unrestricted gun ownership is absolutely necessary to a free and safe society
- ✓ The right to life — equal to the right to possess firearms
- ✓ America's emerging Nazi mindset
- ✓ The history of gun control: a story of hidden agendas
- ✓ Gun ownership: an essential right under the principles of private property
- ✓ The little-known but tragic story of a people who disarmed for the sake of peace
- ✓ Waco and the cult of the omnipotent state
- ✓ The final destruction of the Second Amendment — closer than we think



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# AFFILIATE NEWS

## The right to rave, an uphill fight, and shedding blood for freedom

### ■ California

An LP candidate for State Assembly is suing the city of San Diego to overturn an "illegal" 11-year-old tax on rental property, which costs residents \$4.5 million a year.

"The tax violates Proposition 13, which the city ignored when it imposed the rental tax in 1987 without voter approval," charged **Edward Teyssier** at a news conference over the Fourth of July weekend.

When the city attorney claimed that the tax isn't covered by Proposition 13 because it is a "business tax," not a property tax, Teyssier countered: "Really, it's a tenants' tax, but tenants don't even know about it because it's simply included in their rent."

Teyssier filed the suit in Superior Court in June, but timed his announcement for the July 4 weekend, explaining, "This country was started as a protest against taxation."

### ■ California

By cracking down on gambling on Indian reservations, Republican Governor Pete Wilson may end up moving thousands of Indians back onto the welfare rolls, Libertarians warn.

"Politicians have been touting welfare-to-work programs lately," said State Chair **Mark Hinkle**. "This is the first example I've seen of work-to-welfare, and it's absolutely tragic. Prior to gaming, federal handouts were the primary source of income for most tribes. Thanks to gaming, Indian tribes have broken the cycle of welfare dependency."

To protect the lucrative state-run lottery from competition, Wilson has imposed quotas on the number of video gaming machines that each Indian tribe can operate.

In response, the LP passed a resolution in May in support of Indian gaming.

"Indian tribes are sovereign nations and have the right to use their property for whatever they choose, including gaming — free of government interference and regulation," Hinkle said. "If the government hauls off tribal slot machines, hardworking Indians



Photo by Gary Fincher

### The third Libertarian candidate since 1775

Libertarian petitioner Karen Fincher gives 3,000 signed petitions to Libertarian Congressional candidate George Phillies — and accepts congratulations for the successful conclusion of the ballot access drive. The signatures, collected by Fincher and her husband, Gary, were required to put Phillies on the Massachusetts ballot this November. Because of restrictive ballot access laws, Phillies is only the third LP Congressional candidate to qualify in that state "since the 'shot heard 'round the world' in 1775!" said Fincher.

who have struggled for economic independence will be forced back onto the welfare rolls — and you can bet on that."

### ■ California

San Francisco Libertarians have launched a campaign against police harassment of the "rave" dance scene — and are using it as an opportunity to get the Libertarian message to the "dance community."

Raves are trendy, all-night dance parties — usually held outside of traditional nightclubs — that feature electronic music and attract a predominantly young audience.

"San Francisco rave parties are routinely busted for not having various permits, which are almost impossible to obtain," said the local LP chair, who goes by the name **Starchild**. "Some dancers have even been victims of police brutality. [Participants of rave parties] are a peaceful group of people exercising basic constitutional rights — such as the right to speak and to assemble — and we think the city should respect that."

"Unfortunately, the city government has demonstrated an unrelenting hostility toward the

dance community," he said. "We find the current practice of prohibiting such gatherings across huge swaths of San Francisco and shutting down celebrations on the flimsiest of pretenses unacceptable."

Libertarians passed a resolution at their April 26 meeting calling upon Mayor Willie Brown, the police chief, and the Board of Supervisors to strike down arbitrary permit laws, curfews, and other ordinances "used to harass" organizers of the rave gatherings.

They plan to present the resolution, complete with 300 signatures, to Brown in August.

### ■ Delaware

State chair **Mike Sensor** has become a regular weekly guest on the state's largest news-talk station, WILM — giving him an opportunity to bring the Libertarian message to listeners in four states.

The hour-long political roundtable, called NewsTalk PM, "provides an excellent opportunity to bring Libertarian ideas to the public," Sensor said. "Most of the calls from the public are receptive to the Libertarian message — although many are overtly hostile to the liberal Democratic message promulgated by one of my co-hosts."

The stint has paid dividends beyond the Tuesday night appearances, Sensor pointed out. "WILM conducted a live interview with me from the floor of the Libertarian Party's National Convention on July 5 — then ran stories about the Convention throughout the day on Monday."

"After hearing WILM's recent story on the National Convention, one doctor told me, 'You folks really are the future of this nation, you know.' That heartened me significantly!" said Sensor.

### ■ Iowa

A Libertarian Party member has decided it's time to shed blood for the sake of liberty.

"Well, plasma, actually," said **Roger Fritz**, who said he will donate half the money earned from regular plasma donations to LP candidates — and is challenging other Story County, Iowa, Libertarians to do the same.

"If you are sick of the ever-increasing growth of government, and the ever-decreasing amount of personal liberty, the time has come to shed some blood for the sake of liberty," said Fritz. "Our Founding Fathers sacrificed their fortunes, and sometimes their lives, for liberty. I think I can help out with a little needle prick to help out the best hope for restoring our freedoms — the Libertarian Party."

Fritz came up with the blood-drive-for-liberty idea after a new company opened in Ames

that pays \$20 for a plasma donation, he said. The cash from Fritz's first donation went to Mark Nelson, LP candidate for the Davenport School Board.

### ■ Oregon

A successful campaign by the state LP against Ballot Measure 53 has helped defeat a renewed effort by the state legislature to "subvert the initiative process" and make it easier to raise taxes.

Thanks in part to a lobbying effort by state Libertarians, voters rejected the proposed measure in May.

"The people of Oregon have affirmed their wishes to restrict government power and protect the democratic process by rejecting the state legislature's attempt to subvert the initiative process," said LP gubernatorial candidate **Richard Burke**. "If pro-government tax advocates want to increase our burden, they must convince voters that our money will not be wasted."

The measure failed after Burke, lobbying director **H. Joe Tabor**, and other Libertarians mounted an intense campaign by conducting interviews across the state and publishing anti-tax messages in voters' guides.

At stake: The state's 50/50 rule, which allows tax increases only if 50% of the voters turn out, and only if more than 50% approve the tax hike. Repealing the 50/50 rule would have "allowed special interests and tax proponents to sneak tax increases by voters in low turnout, off-year elections," said Burke.

### ■ Minnesota

Who said politics isn't rewarding? Minnesota LP member **Rich Osness** has pledged a \$1,000 "reward" — in the form of a campaign contribution from his own bank account — for any credible Libertarian candidate who will run against incumbent Republican Congressman Gil Gutknecht.

"A credible candidate is someone that I and voters can actually envision serving in this office," Osness said. "It can't be that hard: You'll be running against an auctioneer [Gutknecht's previous career]."

Osness said he's willing to spend his own money to recruit a candidate because he hates the thought of Gutknecht coasting to victory without opposition.

"Gutknecht holds a special place [of scorn] in my heart," he said. "It is likely that I would find the performance of any other Congressman as unsatisfactory as Gil's. But Gil is my Congressman; I take it personally."

What about Osness himself? "I will be busy running for the state legislature — a race I can win," he explained.

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■ **South Carolina**

Legislators have an opportunity to correct the "poor job" that the Supreme Court has done defending property rights, said an LP member who testified before the State Senate on April 8.

**Bill Woolsey**, Charleston County LP Vice Chair and an economics professor at the Citadel, testified on behalf of the South Carolina Private Property Rights Protection Act before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The bill would require that government compensate individuals for partial, or "regulatory," takings, as required by the Fifth Amendment.

"Property rights are the backbone of the free-market system," said Woolsey. "Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has done a poor job in interpreting that clause. You have the opportunity to reaffirm the importance of property rights — at least in South Carolina."

The bill passed the House and died in the Senate this legislative session — but Woolsey has pledged to revive it next year.

"The State Senate's request for Dr. Woolsey's testimony is indicative of the Libertarian Party's increasing political clout," said State Chair **Chuck Williams**.



Photo by Richard E. Venable

■ **Campaigning on the air in California**

California Libertarian Party candidate for Secretary of State Gail Lightfoot (center) is interviewed just before that state's primary in June by talk show hosts George Calvin Booth (left) and Maggie Macguire. The popular early-morning talk show airs on KSYC-AM/FM, and has an audience ranging from the border of Oregon to central California.

■ **Texas**

In response to a "very persuasive" pitch from superstar fund-raiser **Michael Cloud**, Libertarians in Houston raised over \$5,000 for the **Harry Browne** for President Exploratory Committee on May 23.

Browne, the party's 1996 presidential candidate, came to Houston as part of a nationwide

speaking tour to gauge interest in his potential presidential bid in 2000.

In a speech to about 40 local Libertarians, he praised the Libertarian Party's rapid growth, and asked the audience to "imagine what we could do in 2000 if we had 100,000 members and \$25 million, instead of the \$3 million we had in 1996?"

Browne said he will run again if the LP grows large enough by 2000 "so the media will take us seriously and we don't have to keep playing catch-up like we did in 1996."

The purpose of his exploratory committee, he said, is to raise enough money to buy network television advertising and to have an organization in place

— including offices, phone banks, and literature — in the event he runs again.

■ **Virginia**

Libertarians may be winning an "uphill battle" against an ordinance making it difficult for property owners to build new homes on mountain property.

At issue is the so-called "Mountain Protection Ordinance" in Albemarle County, which would impose strict building regulations on all property that is more than 700 feet above sea level.

At a public hearing on June 10, Jefferson Area Libertarians **Jim Lark**, **Gary Westmoreland**, and **Brad Barnhill** distributed literature criticizing the ordinance and took to the podium to denounce the measure as an "illegal taking of private property." As a result, supervisors postponed a vote until August — giving Libertarians more time to lobby against it.

"The delay is a sign of success, although it doesn't guarantee victory," said Lark. "We're trying to turn up the heat to get [the fence-sitting supervisors] to vote the right way."

"God willing, we shall defeat this proposal, although we face an uphill (no pun intended) battle," he said.

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# Convention '98: "Enthusiasm and progress"

Continued from Page 1

The convention attracted media coverage from United Press International, the *Washington Times*, America's Voice cable TV network, National Public Radio, and more. The event was even covered by foreign media, including a reporter from Sweden and the Spanish language newspaper *Tiempos Del Mundo*.

Most of the action took place in the main convention hall, which was fronted by a huge, three-dimensional stage that featured a replica of the Capitol Building, the convention's "Road to Victory" logo, a stylized Statue of Liberty, and a massive projection screen that broadcast all the speakers and business.

Rows of state delegation tables were arrayed all the way to the back of the spacious hall, and Libertarians festooned with buttons, ribbons, and colorful hats gathered under a forest of vertical state banners. State-by-state votes were announced at microphones in the middle of the floor, while video cameras bracketing the room captured all the action.

In the most important vote of the convention, David Bergland was elected national chairman on Saturday by an overwhelming majority.

## Roared to victory

Bergland, the party's 1984 presidential candidate, roared to victory with 58% of the vote on the first ballot, besting challenger Gene Cisewski, who won 40%. Another 2% went to None of the Above (NOTA), write-ins, or abstentions. Bergland won 350 votes, while Cisewski, the head of the Liberty Council PAC, won 241 votes.

After the vote, Bergland addressed the convention and said, "It's time to get to work!"

He promised that, as national chairman, he would continue the Project Archimedes membership growth program and quadruple the LP's membership by 2000, keep the current team at the National LP headquarters, and expand the party's activist training and Libertarian education programs.

The next day, Hugh Butler, current party treasurer, was elected Vice Chair without opposition on a voice vote. Mark Tuniewicz, current Region 6 LNC Representative, was elected Treasurer, also without opposition on a voice vote.

In the most contested race of Sunday, it took Steve Givot, a member of the LNC, three ballots to win the position of Secre-



■ Rows of delegates — shown here in about one quarter of the sprawling convention hall — wait for convention business to start, under the watchful eye of the C-SPAN camera (left). At the front of the hall: The main stage, featuring a huge, three-dimensional mock-up of the Capitol Building, reflecting the convention's theme, "The Road to Victory."

tary, defeating Carol Moore of Washington, DC, and Benjamin Bachrach of Michigan.

In the platform debate on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, delegates left the party's guiding philosophical document "very much substantially [the same]" said Tim O'Brien, a member of the Platform Committee.

Three major proposals that would have changed the platform — to make the party "neutral" on the issue of abortion; to oppose the death penalty; and to add "children's rights" language — never came up for a floor vote because of time constraints.

## Statement of Principles

A proposal to change the wording of the party's Statement of Principles, from the "cult of the omnipotent state" to language more like the Declaration of Independence, won substantial support but did not gain the seven-eighths majority needed for passage.

Changes to the party's By-laws were made on Thursday and Friday. In response to the most significant proposals, delegates:

- Approved adding "moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office" to the list of purposes of the Libertarian Party.

- Rejected separating the function of "Chief Executive Officer" from the position of National Chair.



■ Ohio delegate Donald Gallick is interviewed by Blanquita Cullum at the live remote radio studio set up at the back of the convention hall. Cullum, syndicated by the Radio America Network on 80 stations, was one of a half-dozen radio hosts who broadcast their shows from the National Convention.

- Approved capping the number of delegates at future conventions at about 1,400, allocated according to state party membership and presidential vote totals.

Throughout the convention, delegates also heard from a variety of speakers, including Larry Elder, Jacob Hornberger, Tanya Metaksa, Roy Innis, and Harry Browne.

A popular highlight was when authors Peter McWilliams and Shelley Davis joined the Libertarian Party on stage, immediately following their speeches.

Davis, the author of the IRS expose, *Unbridled Power*, joined the party on Saturday, and McWilliams, the author of *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do*, signed an LP membership form later that same day to thunderous applause.

"In both cases, these were people I had talked to ahead of time [about joining] because I realized they had Libertarian leanings," said Crickenberger.

Five radio programs were broadcast live from the floor of the convention hall, beaming interviews with Libertarians and

convention speakers to hundreds of stations across the country.

Talk show hosts included Ellen Ratner (syndicated on 100 stations on the Radio America Network), Blanquita Cullum (80 stations), Jim Alsis (WPBR Radio, Florida), Neal Boortz (WSB Radio, Georgia), and Phil Paleologos (Talk America Radio Network, 40 stations.)

"We were very pleased with the media coverage we received," said LP Press Secretary George Getz. "It may be the best-covered off-presidential-year convention in our history."

Immediately following the close of convention business on Sunday afternoon, the Libertarian National Committee voted to appoint Steve Dasbach as the party's new National Director.

Dasbach, who had just served two terms as National Chair, will move to Washington to take his new position in September. Current National Director Ron Crickenberger will resume his previous position of Political Director.

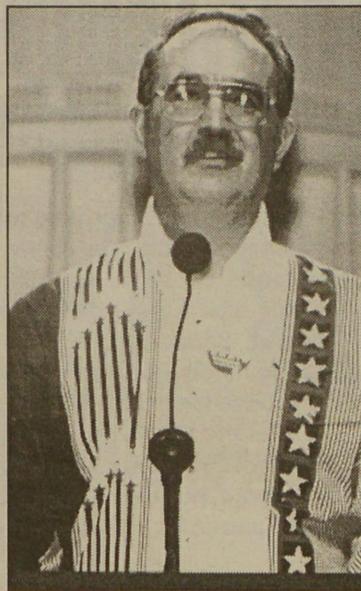
## Impressed

Overall, delegates said they were impressed with the convention, said Dasbach afterwards.

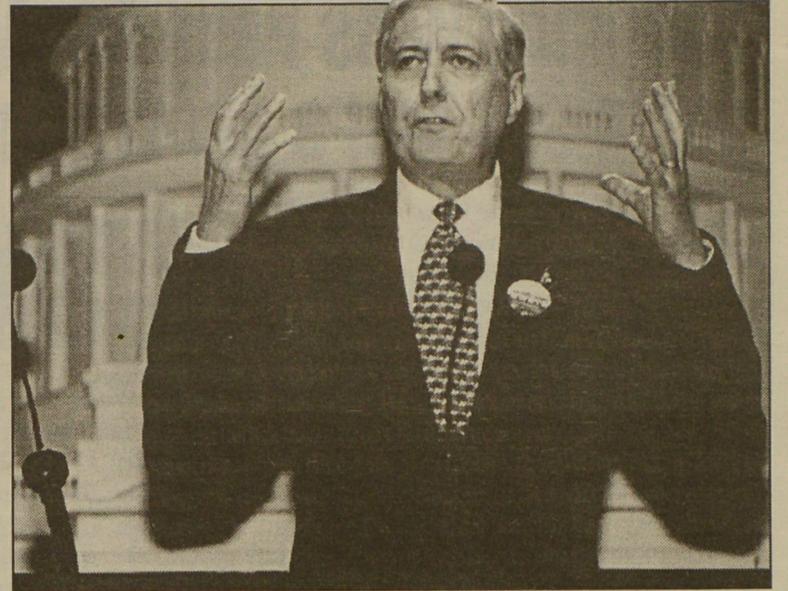
"The consensus seemed to be that it was a long weekend of camaraderie, enthusiasm, and progress — and the Libertarian Party emerged from this convention with a new sense of purpose and motivation," he said.



■ David Bergland (left) campaigns for votes before the election for National Chairman. His technique was apparently effective: Bergland won the race with 58% of the vote. After the vote, he said, "My campaign was based on continuing to build on the party's great growth and success in recent years with proven projects and a proven management team."



■ LP founder David Nolan: "It's pretty obvious that we are in one of those periods of rapid [historical] change. Ladies and gentlemen, the future is ours!"



■ Harry Browne, the party's 1996 presidential candidate, in his speech to the convention: "We Libertarians have the most powerful political message in the world. We are offering to dramatically improve the life of almost every American. The American people must be offered candidates, a party, and proposals that allow them to choose smaller government."

## Scenes from the 1998 Convention

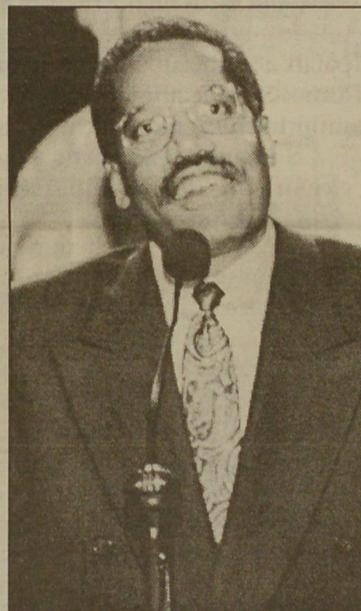
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUG MACDONALD



■ Jacob Hornberger, president of the Future of Freedom Foundation: "Why don't the 20 million Hispanics in this country consider the Libertarian Party? We are the third-largest political party in America. We are fighting for freedom in America — free trade, free markets, and open immigration. We are asking that you give us your consideration."



■ Roy Innis, president of the Congress of Racial Equality: "The Republican Party is not the solution to the moral drift in America. Traditionally, where one or both of the political parties are in default, American citizens organize themselves into new parties. Can the Libertarian Party save America by being the political pioneers of the 21st century?"



■ Larry Elder, the passionate radio talk show host from Los Angeles: "I am a libertarian — which means [I support] a government out of my bedroom and out of my wallet. Does [the action of the Republicans and Democrats in Washington, DC] seem to show you that there's not much difference between the two parties?"



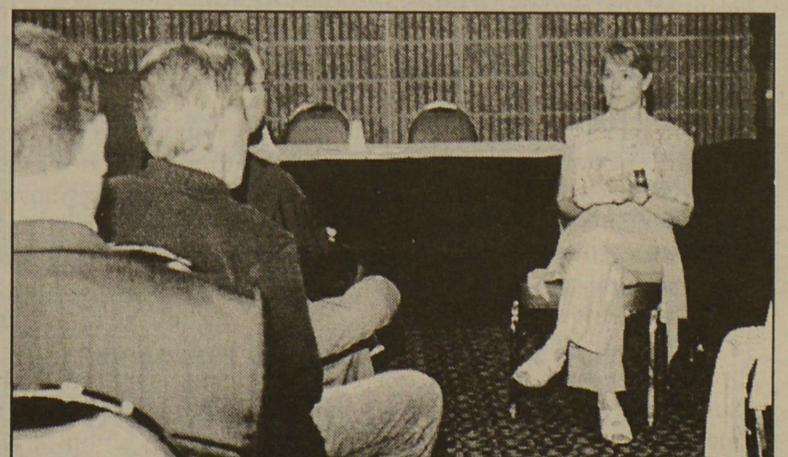
■ An intense conversation on the convention floor, between Berkley (Michigan) city council member Fred Collins (right) and Merrimack (New Hampshire) Selectman Finlay Rothhaus.



■ Gene Cisewski (right) confers with Don Gorman, former New Hampshire legislator, and part of the "Gene Team" in Cisewski's campaign for National Chair.



■ A behind-the-scenes peek at the Credentials Committee (l-r): Dana Johansen, Steve Boone, Frank Longo, Melinda Pilsbury Foster, Vincent May, Mike Ginsberg, and Imad-al Dean Ahmad.



■ Dr. Mary Ruwart gives tips on effective communications at one of the many workshops and seminars at the convention.

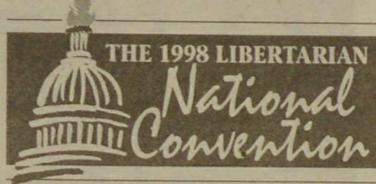
# Bergland wins race for National Chair; promises more growth, more support

Months of anticipation and three days of energetic campaigning came to a climax on Saturday, July 4, when delegates elected David Bergland as the new National Chair of the Libertarian Party.

Bergland won 58% of the vote on the first ballot, besting Liberty Council PAC founder Gene Cisewski, who won 40%. Another 2% of the votes went to NOTA or write-ins.

The win marks Bergland's third term as National Chair. Previously, he served in that position from 1977 to 1981.

"I was relieved that the campaigning was finally at an end," said Bergland after the vote, which saw him win solid majorities from many of the largest state delegations, including California, Michigan, and Texas.



The campaign was highlighted by a hastily arranged debate between Bergland and Cisewski on Friday night, where the two candidates answered questions about their qualifications and their visions for the party before an audience of hundreds of delegates.

As the vote grew closer on Saturday, the heat of the campaign could be measured by the number of dueling buttons worn by delegates, the political "trench warfare" on the convention floor as supporters of the two candidates vigorously lobbied undecided delegates, and

the blizzard of promotional material that blanketed the convention tables.

But when the votes were counted, Bergland had won a decisive first-ballot victory with 350 votes to Cisewski's 241 votes.

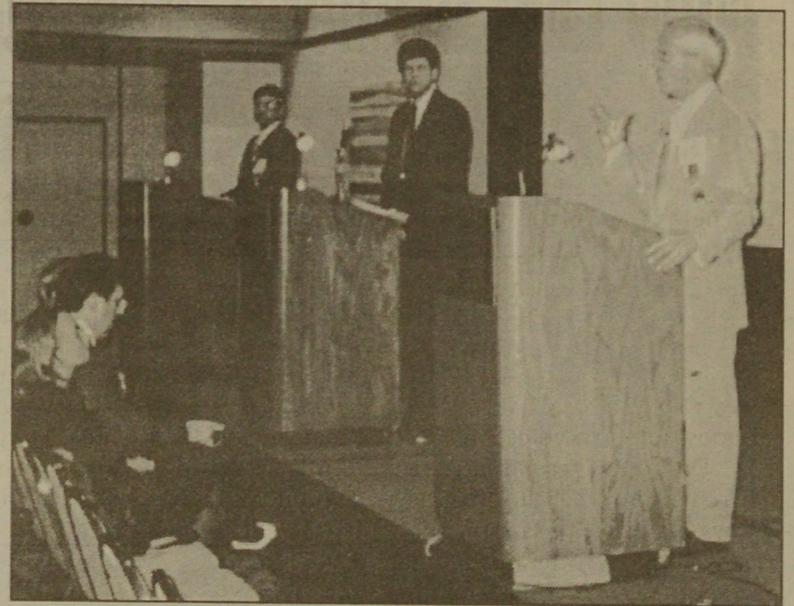
After the vote, Bergland said he felt the vigorous campaign had been a positive experience for the party.

### Quite encouraging

"After the vote was in, many of Mr. Cisewski's supporters were cordial and congratulatory to me, [and] willing to step up and keep working to make the party more effective," he said. "I found this quite encouraging. It boosts my motivation to do the work necessary to achieve the challenges we have set for ourselves."

As new Chair, Bergland said he would focus on the themes he talked about during his campaign: Membership growth, professional leadership, and affiliate support and training.

"I expect a continuation and expansion of membership growth through Project Archimedes and expanded recruitment through the Internet," he said. "I also want to work on setting up more candidate and activist training programs on the Success '97 model and I want to develop internal education and communication training programs to help our affiliate parties assimilate the anticipated influx of new members."



■ The debate for National Chair — featuring David Bergland (right), moderator Jim Lark, and Gene Cisewski (left) — took place before hundreds of delegates on Friday evening, July 3.

Bergland also stressed the challenge of dealing with an influx of new members over the next two years.

"It is imperative that our current members learn how to make new members welcome and give them activist outlets to channel their enthusiasm," he said. "This will require attention to local party organization, recruitment of candidates, campaign organization and training and a multitude of other activities."

### Welcome them

"So my message to every party member reading this is: The new members are coming — get ready to welcome them and put them to work," he said.

After the election, Cisewski, who had fallen short in his bid for National Chair in 1996 as well, acknowledged that the "outcome of the vote was surely

a disappointment." "The delegates had a hard choice to make and most of them arrived at the convention uncommitted and open to hearing everybody's presentation," he said. "In the end, I believe that they chose what seemed more known and comfortable — something all Libertarians experience in the electoral arena."

His personal plans now, he said, are to "focus on the continuing work of the Liberty Council in building our party's grassroots infrastructure."

Cisewski also urged party members to concentrate on building the party.

"The important thing is that [the delegates] made a decision and now we each have to go forward to build the most competitive third party this generation has seen, at all levels from national to the grassroots," he said.

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# New LNC officers elected

The Libertarian National Committee got a thorough shuffling at the convention, with delegates adding a number of new faces to the line-up of party officers, At-Large Representatives, and Regional Representatives.

In officer elections on Sunday, party Treasurer Hugh Butler was elected Vice Chair without opposition on a voice vote.

During his term, Butler said his chief goal will be to "find new ways in which the national organization can offer meaningful support to each affiliate as they attempt to deal with the onrush of memberships which are being sent their way."

In the race for Treasurer, Mark Tuniewicz, Region 6 LNC Representative, was elected without opposition on a voice vote.

"During my tenure, you can expect regular, independent outside audits, financial statements that are prepared and distributed on a timely basis, and improved analysis of the party's financial condition," he said.

### Three ballots

In the most contested race, it took LNC member Steve Givot three ballots to win the position of Secretary, defeating Carol Moore of Washington, DC, and Benjamin Bachrach of Michigan.

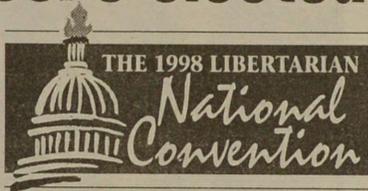
As Secretary, Givot said LP members can expect "a strong advocate of the LP, a person with good business judgment, and a team player."

Elections for LNC At-Large positions, also held on Sunday, resulted in three new faces on the committee. Eight contenders vied for five seats, and delegates voted to retain incumbents Bill Hall (Michigan) and John Buttrick (Arizona) — and elected newcomers Mary Ruwart (Kentucky), Jim Lark (Virginia), and Michael Dixon (Illinois).

Donald Gallick (Ohio), Gary Johnson (Texas), and Mike Hihn (Washington) were eliminated on the first and only ballot.

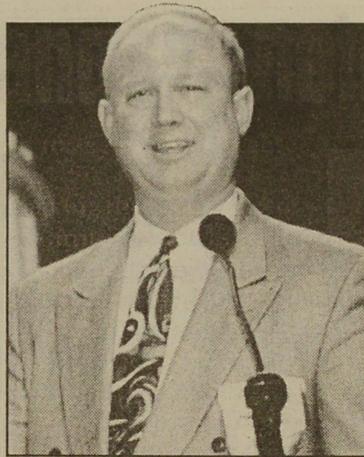
The eight regions also chose representatives, resulting in victories for four incumbents and five newcomers.

Re-elected regional representatives included Joe Dehn (California), Region 1; Ken Bisson (Indiana), Region 3; Robert Franke (Florida), Region 7; and Geoffrey

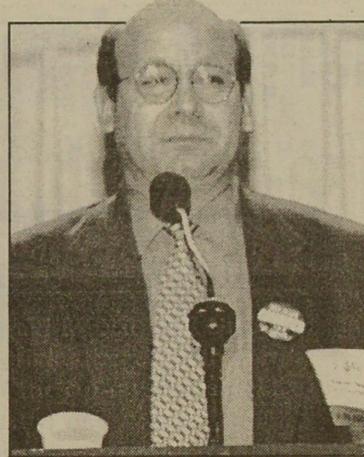


Neale (Texas), Region 8.

New additions included Terry Savage (Nevada), Region 1; Bette Rose Smith (Colorado), Region 2; Chris Spruyt (North Carolina), Region 4; Amy Rule (Maryland), Region 5; and Muni Savyon (Massachusetts), Region 6.



■ New LP Vice Chair Hugh Butler: "Meaningful support to each affiliate."



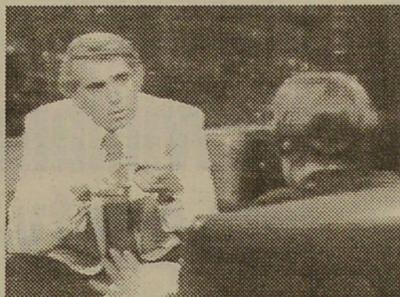
■ New LP Secretary Steve Givot: "A strong advocate of the LP and a team player."



■ New LP Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz: "improved analysis of the LP's financial condition."

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# Platform emerges almost unchanged

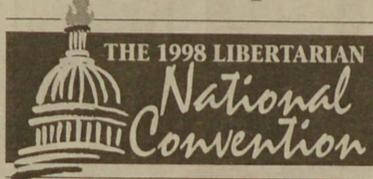
Efforts to change "Cult of the omnipotent state" fail again

The Libertarian Party platform was subjected to 17 hours of committee discussion and a dozen hours of convention floor debate — but emerged "substantially" unchanged from the 1998 National Convention.

Minor changes — primarily stylistic — were made to planks about the economy, trade, freedom of association, freedom and responsibility, health care, transportation, American Indian rights, crime, and sexual rights, but no major positions were altered.

Overall, the party's guiding policy document was "very much substantially" unchanged, said Tim O'Brien, a member of the Platform Committee.

A proposal to remove the



controversial phrase "cult of the omnipotent state" from the LP Statement of Principles was considered on the first day of convention business, but failed to gain enough votes.

The effort to purge the "cult" won the support of 84% of the delegates — just shy of the seven-eighths vote (87.5%) required to alter the Statement of Principles.

### Significantly changed

Several proposals that would have significantly changed the platform were passed by the Platform Committee:

■ On a 12-6 vote, the committee endorsed adding a Children's Rights section — outlining the rights and responsibilities of children and parents — to the "Family Life" plank. It did not come up for a floor vote because of time constraints.

■ The committee voted to add an anti-death penalty section to the "Safeguards for the Criminally Accused" plank. The proposed language stated: "Because life cannot be restored to a person who is wrongly executed, we oppose the death penalty in all cases." The proposal did not make it to the floor for debate.

■ The committee voted, 12-7, to make the Libertarian Party neutral on the question of abortion. The proposal, spearheaded by West Virginia State Chair John Brown, would have replaced the current "Women's Rights and Abortion" plank with the statement: "We take no position as a party on this issue." Efforts to bring the issue to the floor failed.

Heated debate, especially in committee, arose over the issue of whether to simplify the platform to make it a more compact and "positive" document, according to committee members.

Platform Committee Secretary Steve Givot proposed a complete rewrite of the platform with the goal of making it easier to read and approaching issues from a "positive, rather than negative," point of view.

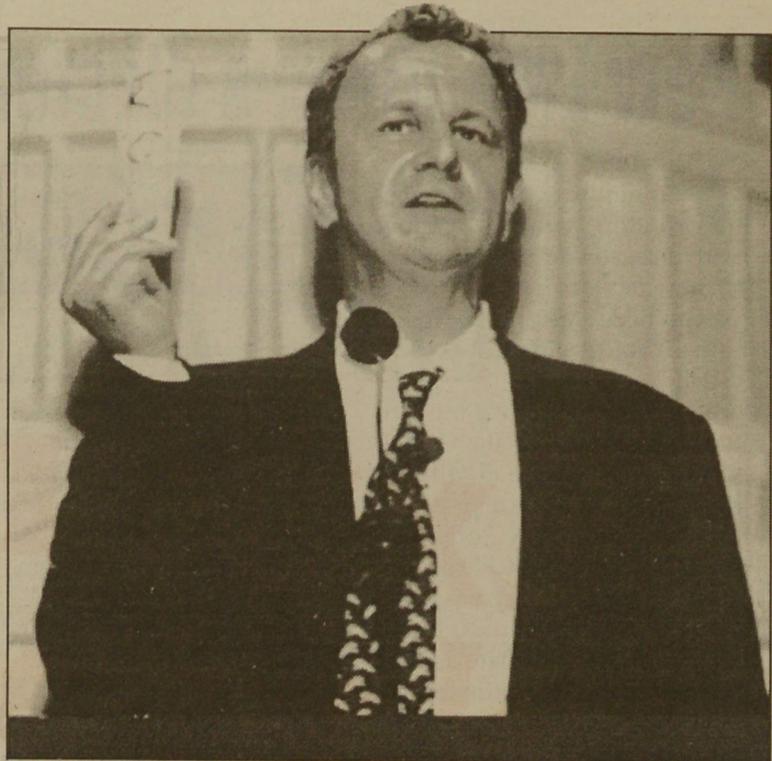
### Upbeat

"Many [prospects] ask for our platform or find it on our Internet web site," Givot said. "It is often their first introduction to Libertarianism. It should be a document which is upbeat — telling people why our policies will improve their lives."

But the proposal ran into opposition from Libertarians who argued that it might "water down the Libertarian message."

During the convention, a number of delegates complained that the current method of amending the platform is "clumsy and time-consuming" — a charge that Platform Committee Chair John Buttrick acknowledged.

"We really do not have a mechanism in place to effect wholesale changes of the platform," he said. "Depending on what you think of the existing platform, this is either a healthy protection of our basic principles . . . or a stultifying procedure which stops us from substantially improving an unwieldy and user-unfriendly document."



■ Libertarians are "the beacons of liberty in this country," said author Peter McWilliams, who held up a \$100 bill to pay his LP membership dues. He joined the party right after his speech.

## McWilliams and Davis join party at convention

Author Peter McWilliams and IRS whistleblower Shelley Davis "signed on the dotted line" to become official members of the Libertarian Party amid standing ovations at the National Convention on July 4.

After delivering his speech, McWilliams — who wrote the book on victimless crime, *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* — was greeted on stage by LP National Director Ron Crickenberger, who asked him: "On this Fourth of July, and anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, would you like to sign your own *personal* declaration of independence from big government, and join the Libertarian Party?"

### \$100 bill

In response, McWilliams paid his Libertarian Party dues with a \$100 bill, and signed his name on the membership form.

Holding it up for the camera, and watching the huge image of his signature projected on the oversized screen, McWilliams paraphrased the famous quote of John Hancock when he signed the Declaration of Independence: "That ought to be big enough for [Drug Czar Barry] McCaffrey to see!"

Joining the LP seemed a logi-

cal step for McWilliams, a critic of "consensual crime" laws.

"I'm tired of people thinking that Libertarians don't have morality," McWilliams had said at one point in his speech. "That's a lot of hogwash. Libertarians are the *only* politicians with values."

### Unbridled Power

Just hours earlier, Davis, the author of the IRS expose *Unbridled Power*, also joined the Libertarian Party.

David was joined on stage by Crickenberger, who told her: "It's been pretty clear to me that not only do you have a profound distrust of the IRS, you seem to be pretty Libertarian in other areas as well." He asked her: Would you be willing to join the party?

In response, Davis smiled and said "Why not?" — signing a membership form on the spot.

Afterwards, Crickenberger said the two events weren't quite as spontaneous as they seemed.

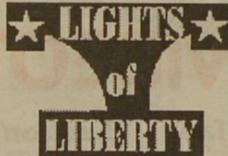
"In both cases, these were people I had talked to ahead of time [about joining] because I realized they had significant Libertarian leanings," he said. "Peter and Shelley are just another example of how more and more people of public prominence are joining the Libertarian Party."

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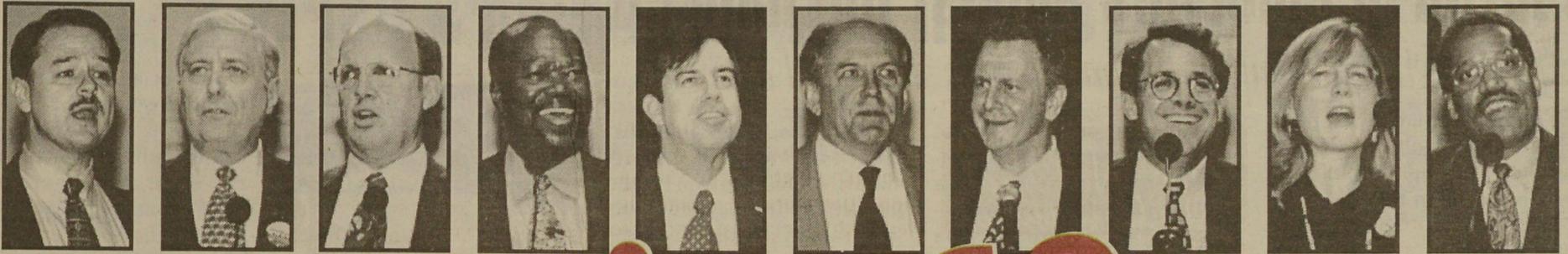
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LIB98-08	<b>Read All About It! Effective LP Newsletters</b> (Workshop): Bill Winter
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■ Dan and Amy Gifford accept the "Champions of Liberty" Award from Ron Crickenberger.

# Convention banquet honors party's "best"

As fireworks exploded over the nation's capital in celebration of the Fourth of July, the Libertarian Party celebrated its best activists — and a few non-LP members, as well — with a Saturday night gala Awards and Honors Banquet at the National Convention.

During the three-hour event, more than a dozen individuals and states were honored for achievements in ballot access, membership growth, LP activ-

ism, and for helping the "cause of liberty."

Climaxing the evening were the Champions of Liberty Awards, which were won by ABC Television correspondent John Stossel and *Waco: The Rules of Engagement* producers Dan and Amy Gifford.

The purpose of the Champions of Liberty Award "is to recognize the many non-Libertarian Party members who are doing good work for the cause of lib-



erty," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger, who presented the cut-crystal Lady Liberty statuettes.

Stossel won the 1997 Champions of Liberty Award for his "ongoing work, via the medium of television, to explain the

moral, social, and economic benefits of freedom."

Stossel, unable to attend because of the political nature of the event, asked author Peter McWilliams to accept the award on his behalf.

The 1998 Champions Award was presented to the Giffords, who were attending the convention to show their Academy Award-nominated documentary.

While accepting the award, Amy Gifford quipped, "This sure beats waiting three hours to lose an Oscar!"

In presenting the award, Crickenberger praised the powerful documentary — which revealed the government cover-up surrounding the bloodbath in Waco, Texas — and said, "Part of a Libertarian victory will be no more tanks rolling through churches; no more Waco fires."

### Highest honor

The LP's three highest activist honors were also distributed:

■ The Sam Adams Award for "best LP activist" was won by Steve Dasbach, the party's soon-to-be National Director. (Runners-up were Harry Browne and California activist Richard Rider.)

■ The Thomas Paine Award for "best Libertarian communicator" was won by Harry Browne. (Runners-up were Michael Cloud and Gene Burns.)

■ The Thomas Jefferson Award for "lifetime achievement" was won by David Bergland. (Runners-up were Harry Browne and Gene Burns.)

The winners of the three awards were chosen via a nomination process open to all LP members. Delegates then selected the winners from the three most popular nominees.

In a separate presentation, Perry Willis was honored with a "distinguished service award" for his four years as National Director. Willis was also granted an honorary LP Life Membership.

The Lehman Awards — which recognize state party membership growth — were won in the large state category by Georgia, and in the small state category by West Virginia.

Two special awards were given out for ballot access:

■ A "Lifetime Achievement" award was given to Richard Winger, the publisher of *Ballot Access News*. He was honored for his "dedication to electoral fairness and open ballots," said LP Project Manager Kris Williams.

■ An award was given to Bill Redpath, the LP's Ballot Access Chair for the last decade. He was honored for his "dedication to achieving LP ballot access."



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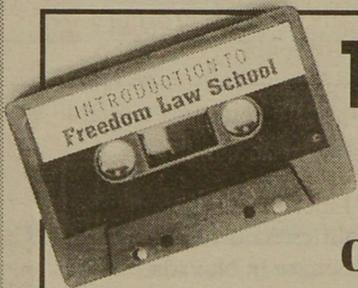
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# Convention first-timers enjoy drama, excitement, and people

*New delegates say they came to learn — and to be inspired*

By Dena Bruedigam  
LP News Correspondent

Some were old-timers who have been to every convention since David Nolan's living room; some delegates were attending only their second convention, having joined during the Browne campaign in 1996.

But a surprisingly large number of National Convention delegates were newcomers — who had never attended an LP national convention before "The Road to Victory."

And whether they had high expectations, low expectations, or no expectations, first-time convention attendees said they returned home inspired, with increased knowledge, and with a renewed confidence in the Libertarian Party.

Sarah Cotham, 27, Vice Chair of the Indiana LP, said she

expected the convention to be exciting and hoped to learn a lot about the Libertarian Party. But she had no idea just how exciting it would be.

"I left with a reinforced passion for being a Libertarian volunteer," she said, "More energized than I ever expected."

A relatively new Libertarian, Cotham said she is serious about



building the party in her home state — and believes she left the convention with the tools necessary to do so.

Ernest Ludwick of Bellevue, Washington, undoubtedly traveled farther than most convention attendees. He flew 3,000

miles to attend "The Road to Victory" because he wanted to view firsthand the progress of the party and wanted to gather ideas to use in his home state.

Ludwick, 39, a single parent and Washington state regional representative, brought his son along to attend their first national convention and do some sightseeing in Washington, DC.

As with many convention delegates, Ludwick also had a specific agenda: He wanted to see the "cult of the omnipotent state" language dropped from the Statement of Principles — a close vote that his side lost.

Herb Ray, 70, a delegate from Winnetka, Illinois, joined the LP five years ago but never became involved. He made the trip to visit relatives and attend the 1998 convention, describing himself as there "to learn."

A philosophical libertarian



■ Convention '98 was an opportunity for first-time LP delegates — like Georgeanne Shirling (Tennessee) — to play a role in party business.

ally for nearly 50 years, Ray credited Hayek's *Road to Serfdom* with introducing him to libertarianism. A former Republican, he lost faith in the GOP over time and subsequently joined the Libertarians.

Before attending the convention, Ray's primary LP involvement consisted of making financial contributions, he said.

But the excitement and inspiration of "The Road to Victory" rubbed off on him and has prompted him to do even more for the party: He now plans to get actively involved in his home state working on the Illinois ballot drive, he said.

Ohio delegate Chet Sutherland, 35, found it easy to attend his first national convention because it was "close by" — a mere seven-hour drive from his home in Akron.

Sutherland, the Ohio state media director, expected the convention to be as rewarding as "a state convention multiplied by 50" and wasn't a bit disappointed, he said.

Even after driving all night to attend the Jerry Russell Campaign seminar, Sutherland managed to stay awake and said it was an excellent and worthwhile convention event.

Like most attendees, he said he welcomed the chance to meet LP leaders in person, and enjoyed networking with people he had previously met at state conventions and Success '97.

### Always enjoyed

Mark Clifford, 44, had always enjoyed state conventions and even helped organize one in Ohio, but hadn't attended a national convention until this year.

Clifford, who now resides in Orlando, was part of the Florida delegation, where he said he was fascinated by the convention business.

He said he especially appreciated the opportunity to meet so many influential and well-known Libertarians such as David Bergland, Harry Browne, and David Nolan.

After experiencing the convention firsthand, Clifford said he believes now, more than ever, that the Libertarian Party will achieve its goals.

"I wanted to find out if the Libertarian Party is a serious political party," Clifford said... and he came away eagerly looking forward to the 2000 convention.

## Elected Libertarians: Fighting long odds

By Sara Cotham  
LP News Correspondent

Achieving victory against overwhelming political odds is gratifying — but Libertarians in public office have to work hard to enjoy that kind of success, said a panel of five elected LP members during a July 4 session at the National Convention.

"Sometimes [victories] are small, sometimes they're big, and we take what we can get," said Bruce Van Buren, a City Commissioner in Avondale Estates, Georgia.

In a free-wheeling discussion, the panelists revealed to an audience of over 100 national delegates in the main convention hall how they successfully inject Libertarian ideas into local politics — usually as the minority viewpoint.

"If you want to make a change, then you have to go out and make a difference [yourself]," said Dewayne Metheny, the mayor of Auburn, Georgia.

### BRUCE VAN BUREN

*"Sometimes [victories] are small, sometimes they're big."*

Knowing they can make a difference at home inspires elected Libertarians to continue to fight for freedom, said City Councilman Fred Collins of Berkely, Michigan.

"Myself and the other six people on the Berkely City Council know a lot more about what the community needs than the Oakland County government [or] the Michigan [state] government," he said.

What tough issues come up most frequently at the local level? Property use, privatization of government-run city services, and constitutional freedoms of

citizens topped the list of "war stories" panelists shared.

For example, after a white supremacist was heckled by angry residents at the height of the Rodney King trial, City Councilwoman Sandi Webb of Simi Valley, California worked with other city council members to protect controversial speech, she said.

She successfully lobbied to allow people to hold demonstrations in a local park — without having to apply for a permit.

In Ohio, Piqua City Commissioner Robert DeBrosse earned the reputation of "a watchdog of the Bill of Rights" for his efforts to protect citizens against excessive government.

"You have to listen to what people are interested in and then figure out how to phrase your Libertarian message in such a way that they are going to be receptive," he said.

The elected Libertarians also said they had to learn to pick their fights carefully.

For example, Webb looked into privatizing Simi Valley's municipal water and sewer operations — but found that the city's efficiently run plant was actually cheaper than the private options she researched.

"So I dropped it and went off to fight other battles," she said. "And there are plenty of battles to fight."

## Be 'unreasonable,' urges keynoter Michael Cloud

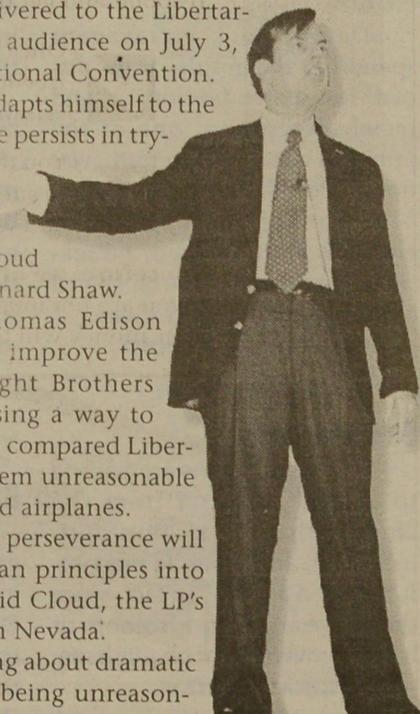
Be "unreasonable" — it's the only way you will ever change the world. That was the theme of Michael Cloud's keynote address, which he delivered to the Libertarian delegates and C-SPAN audience on July 3, the opening day of the National Convention.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Thus all progress depends upon the unreasonable man," Cloud began, quoting George Bernard Shaw.

Pointing out that Thomas Edison wasn't content to simply improve the candle and that the Wright Brothers weren't interested in devising a way to move faster on land, Cloud compared Libertarian ideas, which may seem unreasonable at first, to electric lights and airplanes.

The same idealism and perseverance will eventually propel Libertarian principles into the forefront of politics, said Cloud, the LP's candidate for U.S. Senate in Nevada.

"Dramatic changes bring about dramatic results — and that means being unreasonable to change the world," he said.



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# TALKINGPOINTS

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### Unembraceable you

In the 18th century British parliament, the Earl of Sandwich said to the great libertarian John Wilkes, "I do not know whether you will die on the gallows or of some dread disease." Wilkes responded, "That depends, sir, on whether I embrace your principles or your mistress."

In Washington, more politicians have been embracing mistresses than principles recently.  
— **DAVID BOAZ** (Cato Institute),  
Speech at Libertarian National Convention, July 3, 1998

### Throw more money!

Proponents of public education have long contended that lack of funding is a principal reason for the poor performance of many government schools. However, as Los Angeles writer Paul Ciotti reports in "Money and School Performance: Lessons from the Kansas City Desegregation Experiment," it is unlikely that increased funding will help public schools.

In 1985 a federal judge invited the Kansas City, Missouri, School District to come up with a cost-is-no-object educational plan. The district responded by spending as much as \$11,700 per pupil per year. The district used the money to build new facilities and to hire more teachers, dropping the student-teacher ratio to 12 or 13 to 1, the lowest of any major school district in the country.

Despite such extravagant spending, the results were dismal. Test scores did not rise, and racial integration, one of the principal goals of the reform, was not achieved. Ciotti concludes, "The Kansas City experiment suggests that, indeed, educational problems can't be solved by throwing money at them..."

— **CATO POLICY REPORT**,  
May/June 1998

### Smoked out

Few Republicans are willing to defend smoking from the charge that it is immoral, irrational, and a public menace. It has been a while, in fact, since they have argued for freedom or limited government on *any* issue.

— **NATIONAL REVIEW**,  
May 4, 1998

**MARC BEAUCHAMP**  
EDITOR



**IN FRANCE,**  
*"thousands of violations have been reported" of people working too hard.*

### Fun with biometrics

Minnesota citizens may soon be guinea pigs for yet another privacy invasion experiment. A new law authorizes a study to fingerprint all citizens.

Proponents of the law are excited about the possibility that fingerprinting requirements on driver's licenses would allow retailers to check the fingerprints of suspect customers and "know in three minutes" if they are who they say they are.

The original language of the bill clearly shows the future plans for identification by biometrics. These include "tobacco, liquor, and lottery sales enforcement; health care; voter registration; and school access and other situations where accurate personal identification is essential."

— **TWILA BRASE**,  
*Intellectual Ammunition*,  
June/July 1998

### Gatekeeper Hillary

Matt Drudge has no apologies for non-membership in journalism's smug little guild. Let Drudge write his version of the truth, and let readers judge for themselves. If he libels someone, then he'll be sued, as he should

be. If he gets the story wrong too many times, no one will listen to him. The marketplace for news is like any other.

But this kind of marketplace, spread by the Internet, is a threat to the people with the power today. Drudge quoted Hillary Clinton, who said earlier this year, "We're all going to have to rethink how we deal with the Internet. As exciting as these new developments are, there are a number of serious issues without any kind of gatekeeping function." She [warned] that "any time an individual leaps so far ahead of that balance and throws the system — whatever it might be political, economic, technological — out of balance, you've got a problem."

Really? Maybe *you've* got a problem, "you" being the folks in charge before someone leaps "far ahead." The rest of us, gatekeeper-less, have more

choices, more freedom, a more exciting future.

— **JAMES GLASSMAN**  
*The Washington Post*  
June 5, 1998

### Universal stupidity

The best government is the least government at the lowest possible cost. Canada's only hope to eradicate its nagging unemployment problem is to lower taxes dramatically. Anything less means more of the same—and all politicians must understand that reality. It's about *taxes*, stupid.

— **DIANE FRANCIS**,  
*Forbes*, June 15, 1998

### Reasons to be lazy

Pity the French corporate climbers who are discovering that working too hard has become a crime. Before a controversial plan to reduce the work week to 35 hours comes into effect, the [French] government has started raiding companies to make sure executives and other professionals aren't putting in more hours than the current legal limit of 39 a week. "Several thousand violations have been reported at big companies we have looked at," a spokeswoman at the Employment and Solidarity Ministry said.

The raids, carried out by the ministry's 420 inspectors, often on tips from union members, have led to bizarre scenes at some companies... Several inspectors

have gone as far as photographing car license plates in company parking lots to deduce their owners' working hours or monitoring personal computers to make sure that no work was being sneaked home.

— **SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE**, June 17, 1998

### Failed forecasts

The risk of modern civilization is not overpopulation, but over politicization. And that risk would be increased were we to follow the Malthusian anti-technology and anti-growth policies of the Dan Steins [of the Federation for American Immigration Reform] of the world.

The policies of economic liberty — limited government, private property, freedom of contact, and stable rule of law — have moved the world far away from the despots written about by Malthus and Mr. Stein.

This month is, indeed, the 200th anniversary of [Malthus's] famous essay, but 200 years of failed forecasts is enough. It is time to abandon these doomsday policies and get serious about our future.

— **FRED SMITH**,  
*Washington Times*, June 19, 1998

■ Send "Talking Points" contributions to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church VA, 22043. E-mail: mbeauch@ix.netcom.com

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From **THE CHAIR**

# What to expect over the next two years

As I write this, the first of what I expect will be many "From the Chair" columns for *LP News*, it's a week after the National Convention ended. And what a convention it was! I'm sure everyone who attended had their own favorite experience, but what I enjoyed most was meeting so many of the people who are supporting and building the party at the grassroots level. And realizing that there were so many more that I couldn't begin to meet them all!

More than that, I appreciate the support the delegates showed by electing me National Chair. One of the most important decisions that Libertarians at the Convention had to make was their vote for new party leadership — and I'm honored the delegates put their trust in me.

Now that the convention is over, I also wanted to thank Gene Cisewski for being such a spirited challenger in the race for National Chair. Gene has proven that he is a capable and imaginative Libertarian campaign organizer and motivator of local libertarian activists. I hope he continues to develop in that area and is even more successful at it. If our plans to recruit tens of thousands of new members succeed, his talents will be very much in demand. And for all the Libertarians who supported Gene, I welcome them as valuable members of our party — and look forward to working with them to advance the party and its causes.

Now it's time for all LP members to look to the future. That's why I want to take a moment to let you know what you can expect over the next two years. (I know that some of you have heard these goals before, but I want every party member to know exactly what my vision for the party is.)

My goals are straightforward: As National Chair I mean to build a Libertarian Party *too big to ignore*.

- I'm committed to *doubling* our membership by July 4, 1999. That means 50,000 members.

- I'm committed to *quadrupling* our membership by July 4, 2000. That means 100,000 members. Maybe more.

How? By rolling out Perry Willis's "Project Archimedes" — the most successful recruiting project in LP history — to the 4,000,000 high-likelihood Libertarians we've identified.

But new members are not enough. That's why I also plan to expand our activist training and internal education programs.

In 1997, Steve Dasbach put together a powerful and low-cost weekend training seminar called Success '97. Over 517 Libertarians attended, learning skills as candidates and in campaign organization, fundraising and local party organization.

As National Chair, I'll build on that with Success '99 and triple the number of activists and leaders attending, getting them the training and the tools they need to succeed.

If things go according to plan, by our Convention in 2000 the great majority of our members will have joined during 1998, 1999 and 2000. That's great news! But it carries a serious challenge as well. It is imperative that our current members learn how to make new members welcome and give them activist outlets to channel their enthusiasm.

So my message to every party member reading this is: The new members are coming — get ready to welcome them and put them to work.

The best days of the Libertarian Party are ahead of us. I can't wait to get to work with the great team we have in the National headquarters to turn our bright potential into reality.

I am committed to making America a free country. And I am committed to helping the Libertarian Party be the primary agent of that change. Working together, we can make it happen.



By David Bergland, LP National Chair

# Ending the "phony" debate over equal education vs. local control

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions" — or interim steps in a libertarian direction — can help improve our nation.



By Sheldon Richman  
*Future of Freedom Foundation*

The coming controversy in the debate in education policy — actually, it's here already — will be over the matter of equal funding. In several states, the courts or legislatures have decided that it is unfair for communities with high-priced real estate to have better schools than communities with lower-priced real estate. Their solution is to have the state government dole out money to the school districts equally. That has upset people in the more affluent areas, but it cheers egalitarians everywhere.

In most states, government school districts are financed by taxes on the assessed value of the real estate in those districts. This naturally leads to disparities in school budgets. The schools in an affluent county usually have more money and nicer facilities than the schools in a poor county in the same state. Per-pupil spending is often higher among the rich than among the poor. Some people think that is unfair and have done something about it. In Vermont and elsewhere, the state courts have said the practice is illegal and has to stop.

As a result, in some states the revenues from property taxes are sent to the state capitals, where they are then distributed among the states' school districts on an equal per-pupil basis. That, in turn, has upset some wealthy people, notably author John Irving in Vermont, who believe that court-ordered cross-subsidies nullify their decisions to buy homes in "better" school districts.

In at least one state, Michigan, the property tax has been replaced entirely as a school-funding source by the sales tax, which is collected and distributed evenly by the state government.

This seems to be an irreconcilable conflict that will engender increasing bitterness in years to come. Let's look at each side. The egalitarians argue that state constitutions hold, and most people believe, that every child has a right to a good education.

If we accept the principle for argument's sake, can gross disparities in the quality of public schooling be justified? That would seem to conflict with the egalitarian premise of public schools.

To the egalitarian argument, the pro-public-school opponents of equalization would reply that the United States has a tradition of local control of schools and that their communities ought to be able to spend as much as they



**"PARENTS SHOULD be free to buy as much education for their children as they like."**

want on their children's education without having limits imposed by the needs of other communities. Irving said the new Vermont policy smacks of Marxism, and he has started his own school to avoid the policy.

Both arguments seem strong. How can this dispute be resolved? If we side with equalization, we sacrifice cherished

local control. If we side with local control, we sacrifice the equal "right" to education.

As Oliver Hardy might have said: Well, government, this is another fine mess you've gotten us into.

This is what comes of government's declaring bogus rights. In truth, no one has a right to have his children educated at the expense of someone else. Rights identify the peaceful actions people may take free of interference by government and others. The right to have education paid for by the taxpayers is a contradiction, since it entails the forcible taking of money from citizens who are just minding their own business. Everyone has a right to educate his own kids, and himself, but no one may compel others to contribute.

Once we clear away the phony right, the equalization problem disappears. Parents should be free to buy as much education for their children as they like, regardless of whether it is more or less than what their neighbors buy for their kids. There will be differences in education quality, as there are differences in the quality of shoes and clothing. (However, many successful people have modest formal educational backgrounds.)

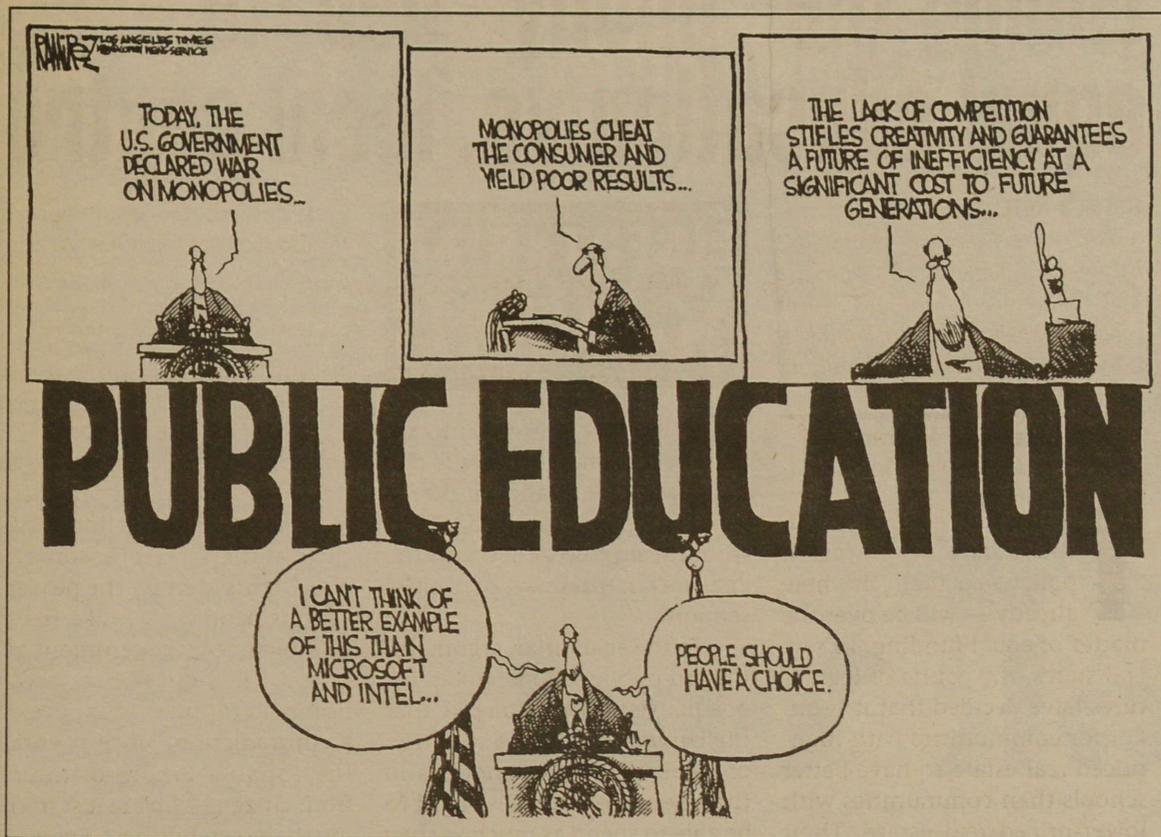
But what about the poor? Two answers: First, if anyone thinks the government schools are educating the poor, they are not keeping up with the news. Second, before there was government education in the United States, everyone was poor by today's standards. Yet America had the most literate, dynamic, and enterprising society on earth.

The path to education is paved with freedom, not compulsory leveling.

**SHELDON RICHMAN** is senior fellow at *The Future of Freedom Foundation* in Fairfax, Virginia, author of its book *Separating School & State: How to Liberate America's Families*, and editor of *The Freeman* magazine.

## Expanded Convention Coverage

For expanded news coverage of the 1998 Libertarian National Convention — including stories about many of the major speeches, a review of media coverage, more in-depth reporting on LNC officer elections, and delegate reactions to the event — see the *Libertarian Party News* website at: <http://www.lp.org/lpn/>



## THE MAILBOX

### Hassling Microsoft

I would like to respond to letters from Roland Peterson and Terry Warren [*LP News*, June 1998] regarding the government's harassment of Microsoft.

Mr. Peterson asks whether a real Libertarian can object to the fact that Microsoft's products accelerate software obsolescence. Certainly! What makes a Libertarian is how he objects, by complaining to Microsoft and/or refusing to buy its products, rather than by sending government thugs using threats of violence to force Microsoft to make its products the way he likes.

Mr. Warren says that he believes in private property and the free market, but not in Microsoft's case. Well, Libertarians believe in private property and the free market for everyone, whether we like them or not.

Mr. Warren goes on to discuss how Microsoft stole its technology. This is irrelevant to the issue at hand: If Microsoft is suspected of copyright or patent infringement, then it should be tried for that crime.

Mr. Warren then states that Microsoft is robbing the public of its right to freedom of choice. Not so: The public is perfectly free to choose not to buy Microsoft products; but does the public have the "right" to enslave Microsoft by dictating how it must sell its products, under threat of violence?

Finally, he asks who will regulate Microsoft if the government doesn't. The free market,

of course. Believe me, if people care enough about this bundling issue to stop buying Windows, Microsoft will be much more responsive to their desires than to government threats.

— **BRADLEY BOBBS**  
Van Nuys, California

### Missing the point

I believe that those Libertarians supporting Microsoft in the battle of the "free" market against government intervention are missing one key point ["The Mailbox," July 1998]. When a corporation holds a monopoly in a particular market there are no competitive forces to encourage rapid improvement in the quality of their product.

Since competition is the primary driving force which causes the free enterprise system to be superior to all others, the absence of competition means an absence of free enterprise or, at least, the primary benefit of free enterprise. A monopoly market is not a "free" market.

One only has to look at the effect of competition and the lack of it in Microsoft's products. We have been waiting for three

long years for a major upgrade to their operating system. Instead, we are about to be sold, for about \$100, a set of incremental and relatively minor upgrades that have been made available over those three years. What a bargain for something that, in the presence of competition, would probably have been named Windows 95.1 instead of Windows 98.

While I hate to see government getting involved in any way in the free market, the breakup of monopolies is probably the single justifiable reason for government intervention. When the startup costs become far too large for anyone who might choose to compete in a given market, the leviathan at fault needs to be broken up.

— **WILLIAM BLAIR**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

### A good Libertarian?

I thought it was essential to reply to the letters from Roland Peterson and Terry Warren ["The Mailbox," June 1998].

Peterson asks, "Am I not quite a real Libertarian because I object to having perfectly good software become useless if I upgrade my operating system?"

Sir, the answer is that you can sustain that objection and still be a Libertarian — until you advocate or support the initiation of governmental force against a producer to force that producer to perform in accordance with your wishes. If you

See MAILBOX Page 21

### Abortion and Rights: Applying Libertarian Principles Correctly

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<http://www.cris.com/~bwjass/lfl/>

# THE PULSE

## The perfect size of government

**G**ood news: LP members can finally stop debating the question, "In a Libertarian society, how large would the federal government be?" Thanks to this month's "Pulse" survey, we now have the *definitive* answer — down to the second decimal point. And the answer is (arrived at by averaging all the responses): The federal government should be *exactly* 12.22% the size it is today.

Libertarians were asked: How big can a government get before it infringes on citizens' rights? And how small can it get and still protect essential liberties? In other words (in percentage terms), how big should the federal government be, if 100 is the size of today's federal government, and zero equals no federal government at all?

The responses to this unscientific poll ranged from a high of 55% from "moderate" Libertarians to a low of 0% from the "everything-the-government-does-could-be-done-better-and-cheaper-by-voluntary-means" wing of the Libertarian Party. Most of the responses fell in the 10% to 20% range, with the military, law enforcement, and the judicial system the only areas of the federal government a majority of Libertarians would keep.

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ **10%:** I would "bind the government to the chains of the Constitution." I would privatize all entitlements. All departments and agencies unnecessary for carrying out the expressed powers of the Constitution would be abolished. The military would be reduced to only what is necessary to defend the nation's borders and territories.

— **JONATHAN E. ROBERTS**, Springfield, Missouri

■ **25%:** Twenty-five percent of \$1.7 trillion is \$425 billion. Unlike a lot of LP members, I prefer a relatively large defense budget. So, say \$250 billion there. That leaves \$175 billion for a federal judiciary; Congress; and the Executive Branch. That should be plenty, as it represents the equivalent of \$1,000 from each American.

— **REID BAUMGARTNER**, Boulder, Colorado

■ **3%:** The maximum size of the ideal libertarian government. Anything higher than 3% is just using government for personal theft. A "3" would merely return the U.S. to the level of government there was around 1900.

— **ROY LIEBERMAN**, St. Louis, Missouri

■ **40%:** I believe we should retain 40% of the present federal government, including the Presidency, the Congress, the Courts, and the Department of Justice.

— **MARK N. SUDIA**, Detroit, Michigan

■ **0%:** Optimal size of government = 0. With every breath it takes, government violates individual liberty. Moreover, anything the government does that's worth doing, free people can do at lower cost with higher quality.

— **MICHAEL R. EDELSTEIN**, San Francisco, California

■ **55%:** The budget could be 55% of what it is now by eliminating the following departments, which are unconstitutional: Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Education, HHS, HUD, Interior, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

— **LARRY SIEGFRIED**, Oxnard, California

■ **3%:** Our federal government would be 3% of its present size if it adhered to the limits set by the U.S. Constitution. No schools, no welfare, no overseas military and no unconstitutional federal agencies.

— **CLYDE L. GARLAND**, Houston, Texas

■ **10%:** A government of any size is OK with me as long as the taxes are voluntary. My guess is that our federal government would shrink to about 10% of its present size if that were the case.

— **DAVID NAYBERG**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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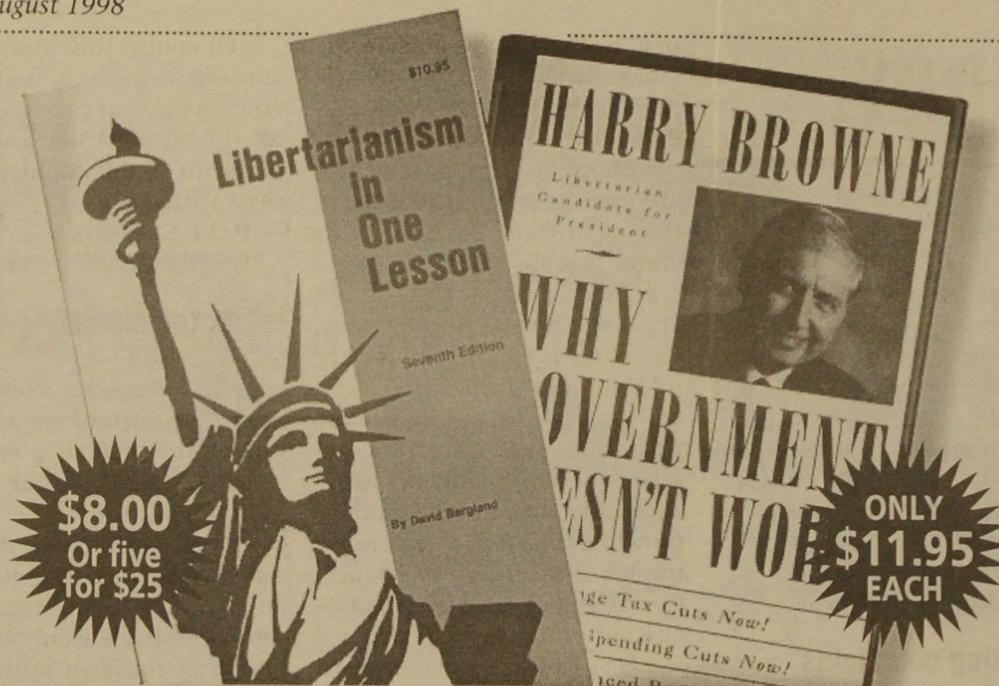
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Both these books are "must-haves" for any LP member's personal library — and make great gifts to friends and prospective members. Both books are well-written, persuasively argued, and exhaustively backed with facts and figures.

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|----------|--------|---|
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| _____    | _____  | Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"     |
| _____    | _____  | Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"        |
| _____    | _____  | Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"     |
| _____    | _____  | Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"            |
| _____    | _____  | Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"     |
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\_\_\_\_\_ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

### Bumper Stickers

\_\_\_\_\_ Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

### Buttons

\_\_\_\_\_ Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776  
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### Miscellaneous Items

\_\_\_\_\_ LP stickers (24 per sheet)  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_

# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

support the government's attempts to force Microsoft to create and structure their products, their marketing and their contractual arrangements in accordance with the desires of its competitors, then, no, you are not any kind of Libertarian.

Warren, on the other hand is definitely not any kind of Libertarian, since he fails to understand the principle of initiation of force. He complains that Gates' success is due only to marketing prowess, and clearly believes that initiation of force on someone whose productivity is based on successful marketing is not only beneficial but desirable.

Warren also complains of Microsoft's success in imposing standards, yet those very standards have created a stable development platform that has meant prosperity for uncounted development companies and their

employees.

He finally falls back on the contradiction that Microsoft, by producing a product and selling it, is reducing the public's freedom of choice. One cannot truthfully claim that more products and more competition lead to less choice. Certainly anyone who tries cannot be considered a Libertarian.

— MARK CASHMAN

Windsor, Connecticut

## Exploiting principles

Libertarians, unlike Republicans and Democrats, have a guiding principle. As LP members, we "do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." This principle guides our thinking about every issue. We are the only party with intellectual consistency in our positions.

This principle can serve as an effective recruiting tool. Sadly,

practically nobody outside the Libertarian Party is aware that we even have a guiding principle, much less knows what it is.

Many, perhaps most, people are cynical enough to believe that politicians have no principles. People would be pleasantly surprised to learn that Libertarians have a guiding principle and that we consistently follow that principle.

We should publicize our principle. Whenever we are asked our position on any issue, we should answer, "Our guiding principle is . . . and therefore we think . . ." We can use every question as an opportunity to publicize our principle.

Let us ask everyone, "Do you agree with the principle: Thou shalt not initiate force against another person? If you do not agree, then how do you like it when other people initiate force against you? If you do agree with our guiding principle, then join us; join the Libertarian Party."

— SPOTSWOOD D. BOWERS III  
Gratham, New Hampshire

## What's next?

Here's something I read about online: "Speaker Newt Gingrich told an audience last month that replacing printed textbooks with computers should be a goal of the federal government. 'I would hope within five years they would have no more textbooks,' Gingrich said. In Texas, the chairman of the State Board of Education has proposed spending billions of dollars in coming years to replace printed books with laptop computers and electronic books." (The *New York Times*, July 2, 1998.)

What next? How much is this going to cost tax payers?!

— SCOTT BUTTON

Falls Church, Virginia

## A refresher course

Perhaps the shortest path to legalize liberty would be the simple expedient of requiring every bureaucrat and elected official to annually attend a refresher course in the Constitution, bereft of interpretation. Emphasis could be placed on understanding the Bill of Rights, 1-10 while memorizing #10.

Upon completion of the course, attendees could be required to sign a pledge to adhere to the principles in 1-9 and, when in doubt, defer to #10.

## Political Correction

by Dr. Bob Sheckler  
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Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Of course this would probably cancel the need for the Libertarian Party, as the bureaucrats would self-destruct and most problems of this country would cease with them.

— PAUL CHIZOOK

Tyngsboro, Massachusetts

## Is 5% too much?

America's Founding Fathers gave a lot for liberty. They risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. They left us a beautiful inheritance, but it's our turn to fight now.

Polls show that 20% of Americans currently hold libertarian beliefs. If only a small percentage of those would join the LP, we could have millions of

**"WHEN YOU compare it to the sacrifices of the Founding Fathers, it's not asking that much."**

members by January 1, 2000. Think of the impact we would have! We would have media attention. We would be in the debates. People would discuss our proposals and principles with respect. We would be a major force in American politics.

I am making a substantial contribution to Project Archimedes today. Will you join me? Dip into your savings. Sell some stock. Consider contributing just 5% of your net worth. When you compare it to the sacrifices the Founding Fathers made, it's not asking that much!

A major contribution today might eventually delay your retirement by a year or two, but when you think of the prosperity we can gain by taking back our government from the looters and moochers, isn't it worth the gamble? You might even be able to retire five years earlier!

The Libertarians have great

ideas. We deserve to be taken seriously, but it starts with us. We have to treat the fight for liberty seriously first. When you think about what George Washington gave for liberty, is 5% of your net worth asking that much?

— J.C. CUNNINGHAM

Weymouth, Massachusetts

## The spoils system

Could institutionalized factionalism and the spoils system weaken the national libertarian political movement? Ever since the convention that question has been bothering me.

My state, New Jersey, is grateful to Gene Cisewski for his fundraising letter that helped bring in enough money to get our gubernatorial candidate into the televised debates. Through his Liberty Council, Mr. Cisewski has aided other state parties and candidates as well. That said, he is using the good will generated by the Council to politic for National Chair. There is nothing wrong with that per se, but it could lead to "institutionalized factionalism" as more and more people become indebted to him over time.

In the debate with David Bergland [at the National Convention], Mr. Cisewski said he had spoken to only two staff members [from the National LP headquarters] about staying on during a transition period, until he could presumably hire new people. But isn't that the spoils system? It seems to me the staff must be beholden to no one individual or faction. After all, staff salaries are paid by the entire membership. Further, could we recruit first-rate people if they are subject to dismissal without cause? Those willing to take the job, human nature being what it

See MAILBOX Page 22

# THE PULSE

## September Question: Favorite LP Position?

For every Libertarian who joined the party because they're annoyed at the government, there is another who joined because he or she simply loves liberty. And in most cases, for each individual Libertarian, there is one particular aspect of liberty they love the most — whether it is freedom from taxes; ending the notion of "consensual crimes;" freedom from regulation; an end to Drug Prohibition . . . the list of "hot button" issues for individual Libertarians is as varied as Libertarians themselves.

■ QUESTION: Which one Libertarian position is most appealing to you? In other words, which LP platform plank are you most proud of? Or, which LP position prompted you to join the party? Or, which LP position do you brag about to your friends? (Limit answers to 100 words, please.)

■ DEADLINE: September 5, 1998

## August Question: "Fornigate"

Hardly a week passes when some aspect of the Monica Lewinsky / Bill Clinton / "Fornigate" scandal isn't in the headlines — yet the LP doesn't speak out about this ongoing saga. Why? Because the party has rarely commented on such scandals, arguing that they don't relate to core Libertarian principles. But some Libertarians argue that we could gain a partisan advantage by taking a stand, or that we should be vocal in speaking out against governmental "immorality."

■ QUESTION: Should the LP publicly speak out about White House sex scandals? Why or why not? (Keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: Aug. 5, 1998

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include your name, please; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Include "Pulse" in subject line.) ■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

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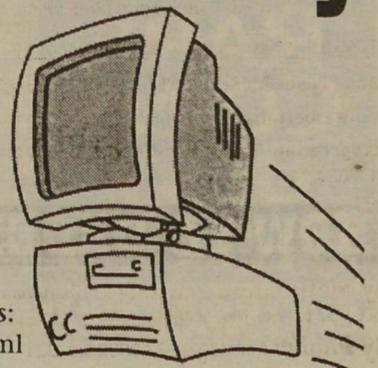
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# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 21

is, would be tempted to neglect party business to ensure their own continued employment.

The Liberty Council, which is funded by Libertarian Party members, has provided valuable training to state and local candidates, as has the LP itself. The question is whether to fund two competing institutions, one of which on balance seemingly could weaken the national libertarian political movement.

— **EMERSON ELLETT**  
Ocean, New Jersey

## Ignoring the children?

The rational libertarian argument in support of the decriminalization of drug usage by adults will never gain the support of a majority of Americans until the issue of preventing drug access by children is resolved. Laura Coker-Garcia conspicuously avoids dealing with that question in "Ending Drug Prohibition: Moral, practical, and social arguments" (*LP News*, July 1998).

In this regard, pertinent statistics reveal that the incidence and location of illegal use of drugs by today's adults is directly related to the extent and places that children also unlawfully consume them. The ease of obtaining illicit drugs at present thus appears to be about the same for children and adults.

Under a decriminalized system of drug use by adults, the only remedy for this unfortunate circumstance would be Draconian penalties for adults who make drugs available to children, either deliberately or accidentally. However, Coker-Garcia's comments suggest there is serious doubt whether libertarians would be active supporters of such penalties.

— **PATRICK GROFF**  
San Diego, California

## Moral and practical

I was disappointed in the level of thought in the letter "Basket Case" ["The Mailbox," July 1998]. It is a statistical fact that immigrants tend to be more

educated and higher paid than the average American. They also receive fewer government benefits per capita. They represent a boon to our economy, not a hindrance.

The Libertarian Party should unashamedly promote an individual's freedom to live wherever they want as long as they respect the freedoms of others. This is both the moral and practical thing to do. Let's not forget that virtually all Americans are descendants of immigrants.

— **ROY HUFF**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**"IF HE CHOOSES  
to smoke, it's his  
choice—right up  
to the point where  
he exhales."**

## Relax about immigration

I was surprised to learn awhile back that immigration is probably the second most divisive issue among libertarians (abortion being first). My understanding of libertarian principles had been the unquestioned support of open immigration, which surely has my own personal blessing. I must have slept through something.

Beverly Lynch is alarmed about increases in population due to birth rates and immigration ["The Mailbox," July 1998].

Ms. Lynch can relax. The more our population has increased, the better-fed the American people are and the more good things we have. And every time a crisis approaches — and usually well ahead of it — human ingenuity and the [unseen] hand of God (as embodied in the free market) quietly solve the problems. Let's just make sure we keep our markets free.

— **BILL WILLIFORD**  
Houston, Texas

## Smoking: Butt out

Please tell Sean Eckenrod ("The Mailbox," June 1998) that I agree with everything he wrote

about his life being his own. If he chooses to smoke, it is his choice — right up to the point where he exhales. At that point, one might say: "Butt out of my airspace — you're not the only one with rights!"

Contrary to Mr. Eckenrod's apparent denial, it is he and those who share his cavalier attitude about smoking, not "some do-gooder health advocates," that are responsible for the anti-smoking "jihad." If smokers had as much regard for the rights of those who choose not to smoke as they do for their right to indulge, the lawmakers would have no reason to intervene.

— **GRANT W. KUHN**  
Carlsbad, California

## Smoking: Supply & demand

There is a perfectly logical solution to the second-hand smoke problem. Get the government out of private businesses and let owners of restaurants and bars conduct their business as they see fit. Owners were already providing no-smoking sections because customers were asking for them before the government stepped in. People should be free to patronize the establishments that provide the amenities desired — either smoke-free or smoking permitted. Supply and demand will determine.

— **LANETTE WITT**  
Denver, Colorado

## Smoking: Free to choose

I believe Charles E. Geisel ["The Mailbox," June, 1998] has incorrectly evaluated the effect of removing laws that

restrict smoking.

Under a Libertarian attitude towards smoking, the right of a business or property owner to make smoking policy would be protected. Logically then, each property owner would set her or his smoking policy according to his or her own perception of the market. Inevitably, this means some businesses would decide to ban smoking entirely, some would permit it everywhere, and some would set a policy somewhere in the middle.

Following this, the customer and the employee would have the freedom to decide to patronize businesses whose smoking policies met his or her needs, and to work for an employer whose policies did the same.

— **JOHN K. FOCKLER, JR.**  
Struthers, Ohio

## The smoking Bell

In your continuing effort to encourage and promote smoking, the picture on the front page of [the June 1998 *LP News*] should go a long way. The wonderfully dramatic and contrived picture of Art Bell, talk radio's "titan," with the right side of his face so carefully lit and the smoke from his cigarette curling so artistically around his head (and into someone else's nostrils) should encourage many people to want to smoke.

Contrary to what *LP News* would like, I am still enjoying my liberty of breathing more easily than I ever thought possible in a restaurant or on an airplane.

— **DEANE PIERCE**  
Lubbock, Texas

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The photograph was furnished by Mr. Bell's publicity department. *LP News* did not specifically request a photo of Mr. Bell smoking.

## Confusing campaign

I'm a big fan of Jacob Hornberger but I must confess his recent statements [*LP News*, June 1998] about his potential presidential bid have me confused.

Bumper states his decision rests on whether the LP has major party status in several states — but then he says we don't need money or members to run his campaign. Exactly how are we supposed to achieve major party status without money or members in the first place? Divine intervention?

He states that radio appearances at LP conventions will not be a major part of his campaign. So what are we talking about here? A \$1.97 campaign speaking to the Ayn Rand Society?

Finally, he states that if the LP candidate (him) out-polls the bottom rungs of the Republican contenders in the primaries "no one could ignore the Libertarians going into the general election season." They couldn't? They ignored a party and a candidate that achieved 50-state ballot access two elections in a row and had the debate endorsement of over 400 media personalities.

If they can ignore a candidate under those circumstances I fail to see how finishing seventh out of 14 in the primaries would inspire them to pay attention.

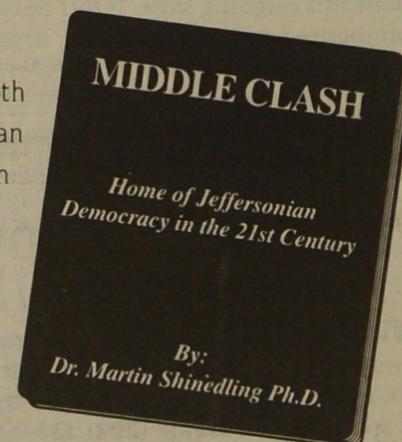
— **MIKE SMITH**  
Wilmington, Delaware

[www.middleclash.com](http://www.middleclash.com)

The world wide web will eventually spawn its own political party. As a front-page article in *Investor's Business Daily* noted, the party will probably be one that espouses many Libertarian principles. The web is a natural home for people who resist "control freaks" and distrust politicians who would seek to protect us from ourselves.

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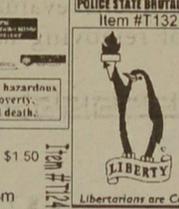
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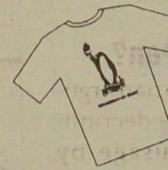
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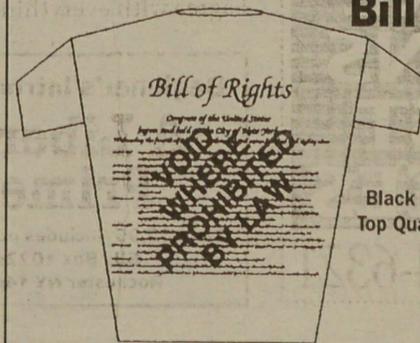
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

■ **August 1, 1998**

**Oregon LP Statewide Nominating Convention**, Knights of Columbus Hall, Medford. For more information, call State Chair Bruce Knight at (503) 736-1259. E-mail: bruceknight@juno.com

■ **August 18-23, 1998**

**International Society for Individual Liberty's 1998 World Conference**, Berlin, Germany. Features libertarian speakers from around the world: Barbara Branden (USA), Stefan Blankertz (Germany), Christian Comanescu (Romania), Bertrand Lemennicier (France), and more. Cost: \$760. For more information, contact ISIL at isil@isil.org. Or call: (707) 746-8796.

■ **September 12-13, 1998**

**"War & The Art of Politics" Seminar**, Sheraton Suites Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware. Sponsored by the LP of Delaware and Kamioner & Associates, this event is a "real-time interactive campaign simulation that will introduce you to real-world, high-pressure politics." Cost: \$60.00 before September 1; \$85.00 after. For more information, call: 610-376-8588. E-mail: conmgmt@penndata.com

■ **September 18-20, 1998**

**1998 Gun Rights Policy Conference**, Doubletree Hotel (Seatac Airport), Seattle Washington. Sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep & Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation. Speakers TBA. For information, call (425) 454-4911. Fax: (425) 451-3959. E-mail: jbarnsaf@aol.com.

■ **November 6-8, 1998**

**Fully Informed Jury Association National Convention** (FIJACon IV) Dallas, Texas. Includes a Continuing Legal Education Seminar, academic presentations from America's top legal scholars, and activist training and lobbying sessions. For more information, call: (800) TEL-JURY or (406) 793-5550.

■ **December 12-13, 1998**

**Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Meeting**. Location TBA. Open to all Libertarian Party members. For information, call Kris Williams at (202) 333-0008 Ext. 228

■ **February 12-15, 1999**

**California LP Convention**, DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers TBA.

■ **February 19-20, 1999**

**Oklahoma LP Convention**, Oklahoma City. Speakers TBA.

■ **February 20-22, 1999**

**Mississippi LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Coliseum, Biloxi. Speakers include Harry Browne and Jim Lark. For information, call Jim Smith at (228) 392-3204.

■ **March 19-21, 1999**

**Pennsylvania LP Convention**, Pittsburgh Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh. Speakers TBA. For information, contact Chuck Gilch at (412) 935-4937. E-mail: ckg@usaor.net.

## Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

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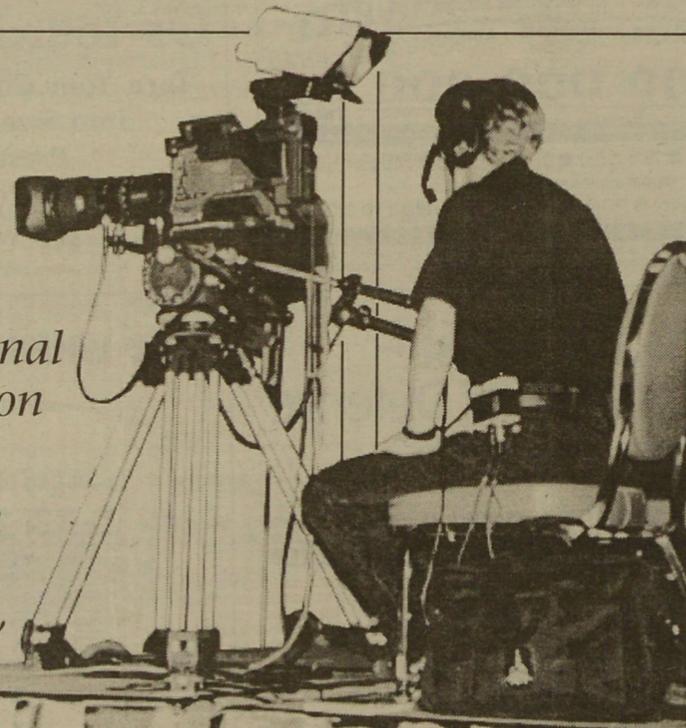
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# INSIDE

- **PAGE 1** Bergland elected new National Chair at convention
- **PAGE 1** Delegates demand: Impeach President Clinton
- **PAGE 3** "Page one" Freedom Fighters



# FIRST WORD

- "Nationally, the Libertarian Party is the most successful and coherent third party in the United States."  
— WORCESTER MAGAZINE (Massachusetts), June 17, 1998
- "Libertarianism . . . has been gaining adherents and credibility in recent years."  
— GARY WILLS, *New York Times Magazine*, January 25, 1998
- "Mainstream political platforms do resemble some of the principles of the Libertarian Party . . . financial campaign reform, elimination of foreign subsidies, elimination of the income tax are Libertarian issues. Once considered radical, these ideas are in the political forefront today."  
— ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION, February 12, 1998