

LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

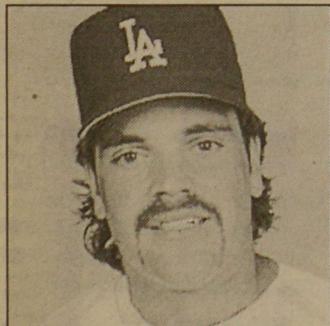
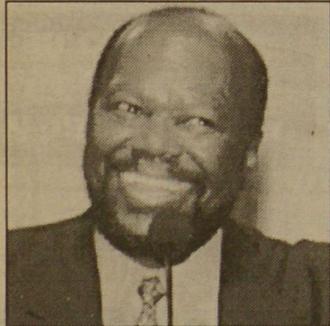
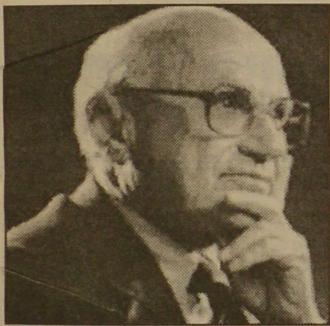
The Party of Principle



March 1999

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party ★ Volume 14 / Issue 3

What do these people have in common?



For the answer, see pages 14 & 15

LP launches new website to defeat FDIC's Know Your Customer proposal

Party's campaign picks up speed as FDIC's March 8 public comment deadline looms

As the deadline for public comment draws near, the Libertarian Party has picked up the pace of its campaign to defeat the "Know Your Customer" regulation — an FDIC proposal that would require banks to spy on their customers for the government.

Over the past month, the party has launched an e-mail campaign against the proposed regulation, set up a privacy website, and done an unprecedented number of interviews to publicize the dangers of what party leaders are calling "a law that only the KGB could love."

Public outcry

The purpose of the campaign: To generate a massive public outcry against the Know

"Know Your Customer" news highlights

- ✓ FDIC receives more than 15,000 complaints
- ✓ LP sets up "Defend Your Privacy" website and starts e-mail campaign
- ✓ U.S. Rep. Ron Paul files privacy legislation
- ✓ LP launches largest-ever media campaign; does 48 interviews on 406 stations

Your Customer proposal before the FDIC's public comment period expires on March 8.

As of early February, more than 15,000 complaints had already flooded into the FDIC's office, according to news reports — with 99.9% opposing it on privacy, constitutional, or civil liberties grounds. Unless it is revoked, the Know Your Customer

rule is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2000.

"This time, the government has gone too far," said Steve Dasbach, LP national director. "The government is waging a war on our privacy, and we can't afford to lose this battle. We've got to let these federal bureaucrats know, loud and clear, that Americans won't stand for this dis-

graceful invasion of our privacy."

The Know Your Customer rule was proposed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the federal agency that insures bank deposits.

Under the proposal, banks and credit unions would be required to find out where their customers get their money, determine a customer's normal pattern of transactions, and report any "suspicious" transactions to the federal government.

The complete text of the proposed directive is available at the FDIC website: www.FDIC.gov.

E-mail letter

To generate more public outcry against the regulation, the Libertarian Party has launched an innovative Internet campaign, said Dasbach. In mid-February, the LP sent a message to the 10,000 people on its e-mail list, asking them to forward a short e-mail letter to their friends, warning them about the Know Your Customer regulation.

The e-mail letter invites people to visit the party's new DefendYourPrivacy.com website, which explains the regulation in

See **BANK SPYING** Page 16

Radio host Gary Nolan joins party

Gary Nolan, a syndicated radio talk show host heard on 45 stations, has become the latest member of the broadcast industry to join the Libertarian Party.

On January 12, Nolan "signed on the dotted line" and became a card-carrying member of the party during a live, on-air broadcast of his program, Nolan At Night. His show is heard around the country — including such major markets as Florida, Texas, Missouri, Washington, and Virginia.

Nolan was joined for the occasion by LP National Director Steve Dasbach and LP Press Secretary George Getz, who watched him sign his LP membership form and then welcomed him into the Libertarian Party.

See **GARY NOLAN** Page 2



■ LP National Director Steve Dasbach (left) accepts an LP membership form from syndicated talk radio host Gary Nolan during a live, on-air interview in a Maryland studio.

LP News photograph by George Getz

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Medical marijuana advocate Kubby is arrested in California

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Growth explosion? Operation Bootstrap kicks off in Florida

NEWS BRIEFS

Jerry Springer: A Libertarian?!?

Warning: There may be a sudden outbreak of chair-throwing and hair-pulling in the libertarian movement. That's because Jerry Springer says he's a libertarian.

According to the *Liberator Online*, the e-mail publication of the Advocates for Self-Government, the controversial TV talk-show host revealed his shocking libertarian secret to **Ken Bush**, a long-time LP activist from Missouri.

Bush, who met Springer while he was in St. Louis to promote his new book, *Ringmaster*, "asked Springer if he was a libertarian. Springer nodded his head affirmatively," reported Paul Schmidt, *Liberator Online* editor.

"Ken was skeptical, so he gave Springer a short summary of what libertarians believe in: Civil liberties and economic freedom. Springer continued to affirm that he was a libertarian."

Springer — whose trashy, raucous, wall-to-wall mayhem-style show has rocketed to the top of the daytime TV ratings — had a very respectable previous life before becoming the bad boy of tabloid TV. He has a law degree, won 10 local Emmies as a local newscaster, served on the Cincinnati City Council, and was elected mayor of Cincinnati in 1977.

Springer, who is not a Libertarian Party member, has also been an outspoken defender of freedom of speech — especially when his television show was under attack by censors.

Harry Browne: WorldNetDaily columnist

Harry Browne can now add another achievement to his resume: World Wide Web columnist. Browne, the LP's 1996 presidential candidate and possible contender for the 2000 nomination, is writing two to four pieces a month for the popular Internet publication, www.WorldNetDaily.com.

"Harry's reputation as both a former LP presidential candidate and an author influenced the editor's decision [to give him the column]," said Jack Dean, a spokesman for Browne's 2000 Exploratory Committee.

WorldNetDaily has already run essays by Browne on his New Year's Resolutions and the Y2K problem, said Dean.

WorldNetDaily — which boasts that it serves as "a watchdog on government" — is one of the journalistic success stories of the World Wide Web. Rising from obscurity in just 18 months, its website, www.WorldNetDaily.com, now receives more than one million hits a day.

Mark Tuniewicz: AOL Community Host

A member of the Libertarian National Committee has been appointed as a "Community Leader" on a political area of America Online, and said he will use his position to insure that the Libertarian Party receives fair coverage.

Mark Tuniewicz, LNC Treasurer, was selected by AOL on December 15 after an online interview and selection process that took 60 days. In his new volunteer capacity, he will be a Community Host for Home-town AOL's Politics & Philosophy area, which is a new web-based "community," intended to compete with similar online services, such as Geocities.

"Hosting this area will allow me to determine what web sites are included in this area, how the area is arranged, which web sites to feature for AOL's 20 million subscribers, and generally influence this high-profile area," said Tuniewicz.

Other duties may include moderating chats online, and hosting related politics and philosophy message boards.

Because of his involvement in the Libertarian Party, Tuniewicz said he will "insure that the LP be given ample opportunity to be highlighted in this new area of AOL, both as a party, as candidates, and as a movement."



Harry Browne: New columnist.



Mark Tuniewicz: New AOL host.

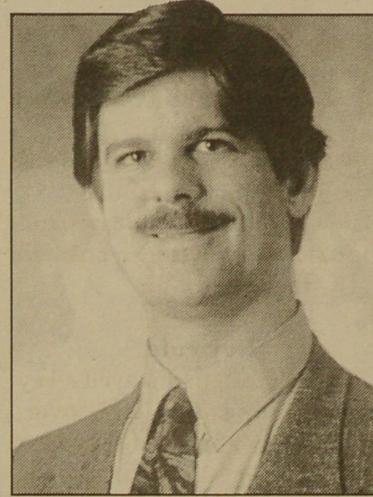
California LP joins a lawsuit to block Prop. 10's tobacco taxes

The Libertarian Party of California has joined in a lawsuit to overturn Proposition 10, the \$700 million tobacco tax initiative narrowly approved by voters last November, which party leaders described as "a rotten bill of goods."

On January 19, the party filed a brief in California Supreme Court in support of a complaint filed on January 4 by the California Association of Retail Tobacconists (CART), a coalition of over 100 tobacco businesses.

Noble intentions

"The issue is very simple: This initiative violates the California Constitution," said LP State Chair Mark Hinkle. "Despite the noble intentions put forward by the initiative, the people of California have been sold a rotten bill of goods."



Mark Hinkle: "The people of California have been sold a rotten bill of goods."

The initiative took effect January 1 and raised state taxes on cigarettes by 50 cents a pack to pay for a new state commission, the California Children and

Families First Commission.

According to the lawsuit, the Prop. 10 violates the state Constitution in two ways: The new tax money pays for programs unrelated to smoking, thus violating a Constitutional provision that limits initiatives to a "single subject;" and the measure creates agencies outside the governor's and the legislature's control, violating another Constitutional provision.

In its brief, the party states its support of these arguments and concludes, "Proposition 10 is unconstitutional and should be stricken in its entirety."

The brief also states: "An immediate stay would protect against the irreparable harm of Constitutional violation to the Libertarian Party, its members, and the entire taxpaying public of California."

Talk show host Gary Nolan joins party

Continued from Page 1

A self-described "libertarian-Republican," Nolan said he finally decided to leave the GOP and join the LP because "Republicans seem as anxious to spend my money as the Democrats. I'm also totally fed up with the GOP's horrible, egregious budget bills."

After the show, Dasbach said he was "encouraged" by Nolan's action. "Nolan is representative of growing legions of Americans who are giving up on the old parties and are open to a new alternative," he said.

Getz, who has been a regular guest on Nolan's show for several months, said he was delighted by Nolan's decision — but not surprised.

Principled and logical

"From the outset, I could tell that Gary was a good prospect for conversion, because he was so principled and logical," he said. "[Nolan] has been a small 'I' libertarian for quite some time. I thought the best thing we could do was to keep building a relationship and wait for him to get fed up with the GOP."

Nolan first made contact with the LP in 1996, when he interviewed presidential candidate Harry Browne, said Getz.

After that campaign, "We talked on the phone periodically throughout 1997, and he would describe himself as a "libertarian Republican who agreed with us on just about everything, includ-

GARY NOLAN:
"I'm totally fed up with the GOP's egregious budget bills."

ing ending the drug war," he said. In 1998, Nolan started scheduling a weekly guest from the LP on his show.

"When the Republicans passed their latest budget bill, I knew Gary was close to joining," said Getz. "Then, on January 6, Gary called and said, *That's it; I've finally decided to join the party.* I suspect he was simply fed up with the way Republicans keep promising smaller government and delivering the opposite."

Dasbach said he had the same sense about Nolan's reasons for joining.

"Nolan finally gave up on the Republican Party," he said. "He was particularly fed up with their chronic failure to cut taxes and their support for increases in government spending. He respects our commitment to principle and our willingness to take on the tough issues."

Capitol Watch

Nolan is syndicated on the Radio America network. He is also the head of Capitol Watch, a conservative-leaning, budget-cutting group based in Washington, DC.

Nolan is the most recent of a long series of prominent radio personalities who have joined the LP over the past four years, including syndicated host Art Bell, David Brudnoy of Boston, and Neal Boortz of Atlanta.

LP NEWS

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Kubby arrested on medical marijuana charges

Blue-ribbon panel formed to investigate arrest of LP's '98 gubernatorial candidate

For the second time in six months, a prominent Libertarian medical marijuana activist has been arrested in California.

On January 19, Steve Kubby, the 1998 LP candidate for governor of California, and his wife Michele were arrested after a police raid of their home in Olympic Valley. They were charged with unauthorized cultivation, harvesting, and processing of marijuana.

After entering a "not guilty" plea, the Kubbys were released on their own recognizance.

In response, the Libertarian Party of California formed a Proposition 215 Blue Ribbon Committee to investigate allegations of "political persecution" and to develop an ongoing strategy to assist the Kubbys.

"Steve and Michele Kubby appear to be the latest victims of what I would call political persecution," said LP State Chair Mark Hinkle. "The Committee will get to the bottom of this issue and determine how the state party should respond. We will investi-

gate all avenues available to us — legal, political, and media — and decide on a suitable course of action."

Since medical marijuana is legal in California, Hinkle said, "They have broken no laws and should never have been arrested in the first place."

Key role

Kubby, 52, had played a key role in Proposition 215, overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 1996, which made it legal for seriously ill patients to grow and use marijuana with a doctor's recommendation.

Medical marijuana was also a centerpiece of Kubby's campaign for governor last year — leading many Libertarians to speculate that political considerations may have been behind the arrest. In August 1998, Peter McWilliams, best-selling author and outspoken LP advocate of medical marijuana, was arrested on similar charges.

Kubby had also been diagnosed with adrenal cancer in 1975 and used medical mari-



■ Michele and Steve Kubby (shown here at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention) are "the latest victims of political persecution," said California LP State Chair Mark Hinkle.

juana under doctor's orders. Michele Kubby also took medical marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.

The members of the Proposition 215 Blue Ribbon Committee include LP National Chairman David Bergland; 1980 LP candidate for President Ed Clark;

former Simi Valley City Council member Sandi Webb; Tahoe Public Utility Board member Dennis Schlumpf; past LP State Chair Jack Dean; and LP political strategist Aaron Starr.

"The committee was formed to help people like Peter McWilliams and Steve and Michele Kubby," said Hinkle.

"Libertarians will not sit still while decent, law-abiding citizens are being persecuted for standing up and expressing their political beliefs. We know this happens in Cuba and North Korea, but it shouldn't be happening in California."

Blasted by LP

Kubby's arrest was also blasted by the national LP.

"By throwing cancer patients in jail, California prosecutors have arrogantly substituted their judgment for that of physicians and voters," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach. "They should drop their prosecution of Steve Kubby — and every other medical marijuana patient in California."

Professionally, Kubby is the publisher of an online recreation magazine, *Alpine World*. He won approximately 1% of the vote in 1998, and has said he is considering running again in 2002.

Contributions are being accepted for the Kubby Defense Fund.

Mail to (and make checks payable to): Kubby Defense Fund, c/o Attorney Dale E. Wood, 10833 Donner Pass Road, Suite 205, Truckee, CA 96161.

Minnesota Libertarians announce 'evolutionary' legislative agenda

The LP of Minnesota has come up with a "Legislative Agenda for the New Century" — a series of legislative proposals that state Libertarians plan to promote in 1999.

"While rooted firmly in Libertarian philosophy and principles, this legislative agenda spells out an achievable agenda for Minnesota that will enhance the life, liberty and opportunities for prosperity for all Minnesotans," said Craig Westover, who is coordinating the project.

The party's legislative agenda consists of seven policy sections — ranging from reducing the state government's impact on "civil society" to reducing taxes, and from initiating structural reforms in state government to increasing protection of civil liberties. When finalized, the agenda will be made available to state legislators.

Each policy section has specific legislative proposals "for comprehensive change, limiting the scope of state government and moving toward a greater

CRAIG WESTOVER:

This legislation "will enhance the life, liberty, and opportunities for all Minnesotans."

level of liberty," said Westover.

While some of the proposals are radical and some are incremental, the legislative agenda acknowledges that "political liberty is an evolutionary concept," said Westover.

Political progress

"To make political progress toward maximum liberty, a legislative agenda based on principle must compromise with the prevailing values of the majority of society," he said.

"Can Minnesota achieve

maximum liberty? That is a debate for philosophers. Can and should Minnesota move toward a state of maximum liberty, and will that enhance prosperity for Minnesota? That is the debate engendered by this LP legislative agenda proposal."

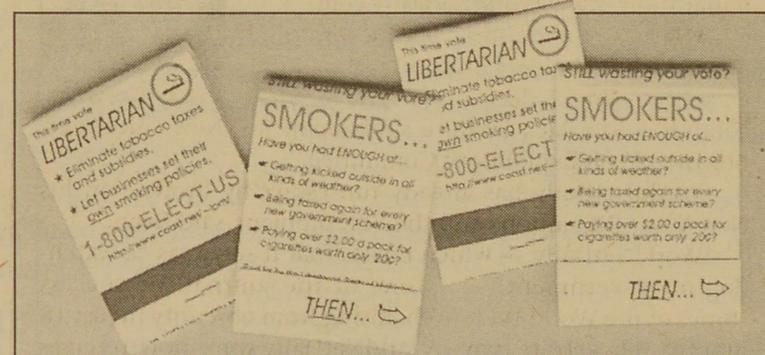
Some of the specific policy proposals that Minnesota Libertarians advocate include:

■ **Abolish Minnesota's Gift and Inheritance taxes** to allow family farms and family businesses to pass on their property free of gift or death taxes.

■ **Pass a Civil Rights Act**, which prohibits any state entity from discriminating or giving preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

■ **Pass a Super-Majority Act** for the Minnesota Legislature, which would require a two-thirds vote to increase taxes. "To more effectively control the budgetary process, the ability to raise taxes or enact new taxes should

See MINNESOTA Page 13



■ The Michigan LP's matchbook outreach program "requires no work to create," said state LP vice chair, Stacy Van Oast.

Michigan LP will sell outreach matchbooks

Hoping to capitalize on smokers' anger at the government's War on Tobacco and new cigarette taxes, the Libertarian Party of Michigan is expanding its successful matchbook outreach program to the entire country.

The Michigan LP is offering matchbooks — which state the Libertarian Party's pro-choice position on cigarettes and feature the party's 1-800-ELECT-US phone number and web address — for sale to Libertarians and affiliate parties across the USA.

"[Smokers are] a huge con-

stituency [but] so politically incorrect that neither so-called free market conservatives nor personal freedom liberals will stand up for their rights," said Michigan LP State Chair, Tim O'Brien.

Adult citizens

"That leaves them completely without political representation. Unless, of course, there is a political party that actually believes that government should treat its adult citizens like adults!" he said.

The matchbooks, printed in

See MATCH BOOKS Page 13

POLITICAL NEWS

Surprise: Who's for impeachment now?

Look who's climbing on the bandwagon: Seven months after delegates at the Libertarian National Convention called for the impeachment of Bill Clinton for "crimes against the Constitution," another group has done the same.

In an advertisement in the February 22 issue of *The Nation* magazine, a collection of old-style liberals demanded: "Impeach Bill Clinton for the right reasons: Not for Lewinsky, but rather for the illegal bombing of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan."

The advertisement was signed and paid for by veterans of the American left, including Barbara Ehrenreich, Staughton Lynd, and professors from Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

The advertisement went on to demand that Clinton be impeached for "abuses of presidential power," including his recent missile attacks on Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan, which, they noted, violated Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution and the 1973 War Powers resolution.

Burke selected as advisor to governor

Libertarian **Richard Burke** didn't win his campaign for governor in November, but he will still have influence over Oregon's highest office: He's been tapped as a political advisor to newly elected Democratic Governor John A. Kitzhaber.



Richard Burke: Oregon advisor.

"It is not a paying job," said Burke. "From time to time the governor's chief of staff will consult with me on particular issues. [However], I see it as a breakthrough precedent, since a Libertarian has direct access to an executive's inner circle."

Burke said he hopes his position will allow him to influence the governor's policies.

"I have a chance to affect the governor's thinking," he said. "In most cases, I will not be able to turn the governor around. But occasionally, I will be able to get him to budge."

Why is the governor getting advice from a candidate that won only 2% of the vote in the election?

"I believe the governor sees value in having access to the Libertarian perspective," said Burke. "We are known for looking at things from unique points of view. If we give him a controversial opinion, he'll know that it is a sincere one — not one designed to facilitate legislative grandstanding."

Kubby ad wins prestigious Pollie award

Libertarians have won their first Pollie award, a political advertising prize given out every two years by the American Association of Political Consultants.

Over the weekend of January 16-17, the Monticello Group won the award for the best political television commercial (longer than 30 seconds) of the 1997-1998 election cycle for its "South Park Parody" ad, which was aired by the **Steve Kubby** for Governor campaign in 1998.

The ad was conceived and produced by **Gene A. Cisewski**, and written, directed, and animated by **Douglas Scribner**, who is the Secretary of the Orange County LP in California.

After the award was announced, Scribner said, "As the artist of the ad, I would gladly take a cash contribution to offset the two months I took off work to complete the ad!"

The 60-second ad, which was broadcast on several cable networks in the final days of Kubby's campaign, attracted considerable attention for its barbed spoof of Comedy Central's foul-mouthed, crudely animated South Park characters.

The ad depicted Kubby's Republican and Democratic rivals as interchangeable cartoon characters. It also took a special swipe at (losing) Republican candidate Dan Lundgren, showing him killing a "Denny" character by depriving him of medical marijuana. [View the ad at www.kubby.com.]

"Congratulations to everyone who helped create this award-winning advertisement," said LP Political Director **Ron Crickenger**. "One of our candidate's ads winning a Pollie Award marks another step forward for the Libertarian Party."

Bolstered by raves, Success '99 heads for Texas & South Carolina

Bolstered by raves from the first two events, the Success '99 Libertarian leadership training seminars will travel to Texas and South Carolina in March, the Libertarian Party announced.

"When Success '99 comes to your area, you'll find out why Libertarians are so full of praise for these weekend-long workshops," said LP National Director Steve Dasbach.

The next round of Success '99 seminars — which focus on tried-and-tested techniques for building thriving LP organizations and running successful campaigns — will be held at the Crowne Plaza Suites Hotel in Dallas, Texas (March 13-14) and in Columbia, South Carolina (March 20-21).

Inspirational

Based on the feedback from the first events — Orlando and Seattle — participants can expect a knowledge-packed, inspirational experience, said Dasbach.

For example, Richard Chamberlain, a former Georgia State Representative, said about the Orlando event: "I've been to two statewide leadership and run-your-campaign workshops put on by the Republicans and Democrats, and this beats both of them!"

Participants at the Seattle event were equally enthusiastic. Carol Miller, the executive direc-



■ Participants listen attentively at the first Success '99, held in Orlando (FL) on January 16. One LP member said the workshop was better than events put on by Republicans and Democrats.

tor of the Washington state LP, said, "Everyone is raving about the event." And LP member Kay Evans said: "Terrific experience. Very valuable and appreciated."

Presenters at the Texas event will include Dasbach, Barbara Goushaw (three-time campaign manager), and Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*).

At the South Carolina event, presenters will include Bill Winter (LP Communications Director), Michael Cloud (campaign organizer at the national, state, and local levels), and Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government.

Looking past March, the one Success '99 event previously planned for April — New Or-

leans, Louisiana on April 17-18 — has been postponed because of a hotel scheduling conflict. A new date will be announced soon, said Dasbach.

Rescheduled

Also, the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MN) event has been rescheduled to September 18-19 from October 16-17.

The registration fee for Success '99 is \$79, and includes a Saturday buffet lunch. Participants pay for their own transportation and lodging.

For a complete list of upcoming Success '99 events — or to request information or register — see the advertisement on page 21 of this issue of *LP News*.

Privatizing Libertarians outnumbered at Social Security forum in California

Six California Libertarians ventured into the lion's den on January 23 when they participated in a Social Security forum — and found themselves "horribly outnumbered" by opponents to a privatized system.

"Libertarians have quite a challenge in persuading the general public that establishing private accounts is a compassionate, simple, effective, and cost-efficient solution that will benefit all Americans," said Juan Ros, the Executive Director of the California LP, who led the delegation.

"I noticed a stunning lack of knowledge of basic economics [from conference participants]."

The forum was sponsored by Americans Discuss Social Security (ADSS), a non-partisan effort created by The Pew Charitable

JUAN ROS:
"Libertarians need to attend as many of these events as possible."

Trusts to "engage Americans from all walks of life in a nationwide discussion about the future of Social Security."

It was held at the campus of the University of Southern California, and was connected by teleconferencing technology to participants in nine other cities. Approximately 150 people par-

ticipated in the four-hour event.

Ros and the other Libertarians — Orange County LP chairman Brian Lee Cross and San Fernando Valley LP members Linda Starr, Duke Fleming, Bruce Acker, and Eric Olsen — were invited to participate after an ADSS representative ran across the California LP website.

Co-sponsor

The LP was listed on the program as a "co-sponsor" of the event, said Ros, along with the American Association of Retired Persons, the Concord Coalition, and Economic Security 2000.

"I wish our co-sponsorship had had more of an impact," said Ros. "Unfortunately for the advocates of privatization, we were

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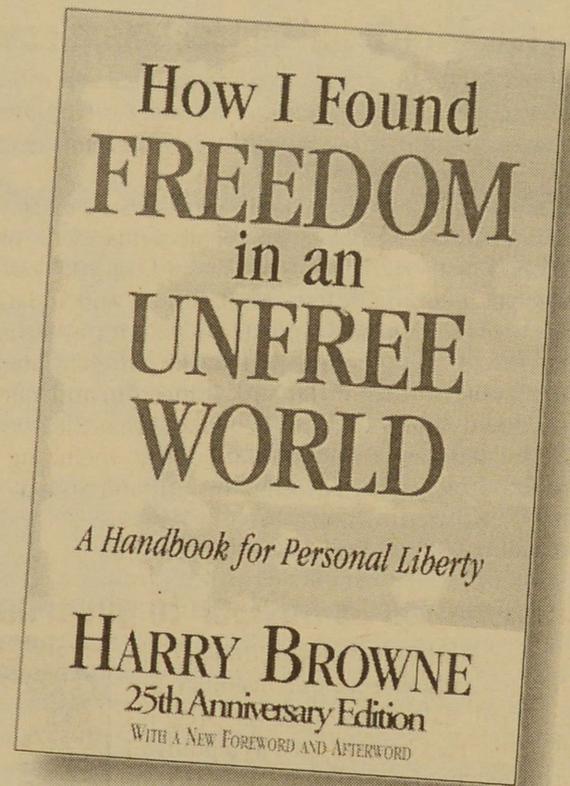
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— **RICHARD BACH**, Author of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull & Illusions*

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THE ISSUES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

LP blasts "State of the Government" speech

President Clinton's State of the Union speech on January 19 demonstrated that "good news may be the worst news for taxpayers," the Libertarian Party said.

That's because a robust economy and a budget surplus have unleashed the president's big-government instincts — leading him to advocate 29 new federal programs, 25 expanded programs, and more than \$3.4 trillion in new spending, noted Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

"The floodgates have opened. The State of the Union address was Bill Clinton's astonishing wish list of new government programs and expanded spending," he said.

"Instead of using prosperity as an opportunity to *reduce* the role of the government, President Clinton wants to use it to make the government bigger, costlier, and more intrusive."

In his speech, Clinton said the nation and economy are "strong," the government will generate budget surpluses for 25 years, and crime rates are falling. To deal with all this good news, Clinton proposed 54 new or expanded federal programs.

"What we heard from Clinton was not, in fact, a State of the Union speech, but a State of the *Government* speech. And under his administration, the state of the federal government is strong — and getting stronger every day," said Dasbach.

Sale of license photos: A "privacy invasion"

The decision by three states to sell millions of drivers license photographs to a private company is a "picture perfect" example of why you can't trust politicians to protect your privacy, the Libertarian Party said.

"Without your permission, politicians in three states have decided to sell your most personal possession — your image," said Dasbach. "If we don't stop them, what will they sell next?"

In the latest "Big Brother" privacy scandal, three states — Florida, South Carolina, and Colorado — have agreed to sell 22.5 million drivers license photographs to Image Data LLD, a private anti-fraud company.

Image Data said the photos will be part of a nationwide image database, which retail establishments can use to confirm the identity of customers who cash checks or use credit cards.

But whether such a database will actually prevent fraud, Dasbach said politicians should have no right to sell people's photographic images: "Your image represents the essence of who you are, and politicians should not be able to sell it to the highest bidder. It is the ultimate violation of your personal privacy."

Social Security plan: A million problems

Here's the biggest problem with President Clinton's proposed Social Security "bail-out" plan: It will prevent most Americans from becoming millionaires by the time they retire.

"Do you want to retire as a pauper or a millionaire? That's the million-dollar question you should ask yourself," said David Bergland, LP national chairman.

In his budget proposal, Clinton suggested that 62% of projected federal budget surpluses be used to "save" Social Security. But the problem, said Bergland, is that the plan will rob most Americans of the opportunity to retire as millionaires — with monthly incomes two to five times what Social Security pays.

Millionaires? Is that hyperbole? Not at all, said Bergland.

According to the Cato Institute, if the average American collected the money the government takes in Social Security taxes — 12.4% from the employee and employer — and invested it in the stock market, "average-income families could expect to retire with savings of nearly \$1 million or more. Even low-income workers could expect to save a half-million dollars."

"That's why Libertarians support a private, non-government retirement system," said Bergland. "It not only avoids the numerous problems of the flawed Clinton plan — but it would help create a nation of millionaires. How could any American advocate anything less for themselves and their children?"

Operation Bootstrap underway in Florida to double LP membership

The Libertarian Party of Florida has announced an ambitious plan — called "Operation Bootstrap" — to double its paid party membership by August 1999.

"We have reached the limits of our current political organization," said LP member Jim Alsis, who is coordinating the project. "To expand the Florida LP in time to be politically effective in the year 2000, we must literally pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, and we must do it this year!"

The party is now raising the estimated \$30,000 it will need to boost its membership from the current 1,500 figure to 3,000.

More productive

"In essence, we are proposing to add 1,500 dues-paying members to the Florida LP at a cost of \$20 each," said Alsis. "While this cost per new member is higher than the LNC's cost per [new] member, Operation Bootstrap is more cost effective, more repeatable, and more productive than any other project this state party has ever done!"

Operation Bootstrap will have four phases, said Alsis:

- In March/April, the national Libertarian Party will mail 12,000 recruitment letters as part of Project Archimedes to Florida residents. Approximately 5,000 will go to current LP prospects, and 7,000 will go to registered Libertarians.

- Immediately after that mailing, 30 Florida LP volunteers will make follow-up telephone calls to the 6,000 people for whom they have phone numbers, and ask them to join the Libertarian Party.

"This first calling and culling [will] be done in the most professional manner," said Alsis. "A training manual and a script will be provided to each volunteer to guarantee maximum effectiveness."

- In May, the Florida LP will drop a second piece of mail to the 12,000 prospects who have not yet joined, and offer a special premium gift as an added incentive.

- After that mailing, volun-

JIM ALSIS:
The Florida LP must "focus on increasing our membership base, immediately."

teers will make a second round of phone calls to solicit memberships and "remind them how important their membership contribution will be to our campaign effort in the year 2000," said Alsis.

To get the project underway,

the Florida LP will invest in a paid Project Administrator, a Development Director, and a Database Manager, he said. Additional money will be spent on telephone and direct mail costs.

Benefit

If the plan succeeds, the Florida LP will benefit immediately from the "doubling of the membership and our monthly revenues," Alsis said.

A membership-building project like Operation Bootstrap is urgently needed because of the passage of Revision 11 in 1998, he said. Thanks to that initiative, ballot access barriers in Florida have been dramatically lowered, making it possible for the Florida LP to run a large number of candidates for the first time ever.

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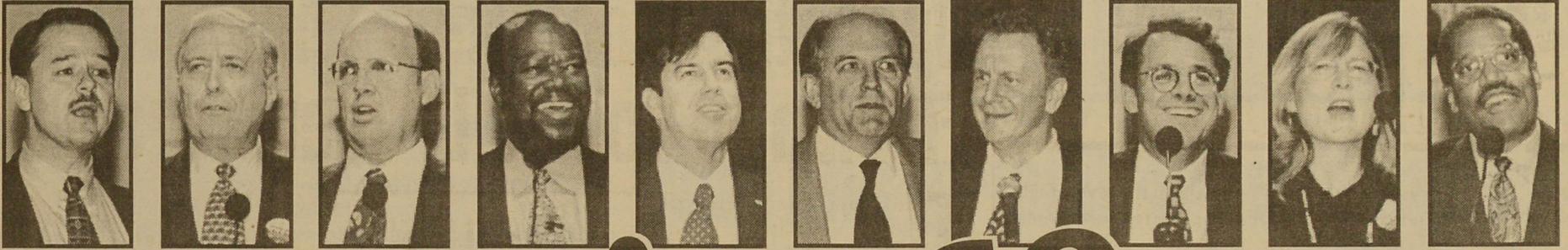
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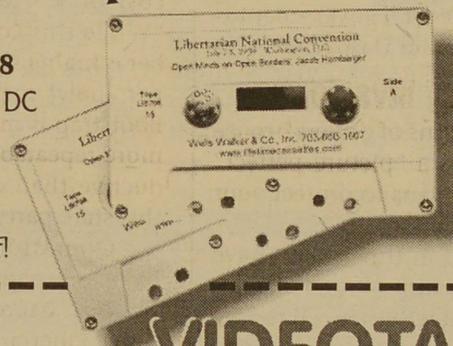
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LIB98-021	The IRS: How Do They Get Away With It? Shelley Davis; Intro/Why We Are Libertarians: John Buttrick
LIB98-022	Local Problems, Libertarian Solutions (Panel): Robert Poole, Sandi Webb, Dewayne Metheny, Fred Collins, Finlay Rothhaus, Robert DeBrosse
LIB98-023	Born Again Libertarian: Peter McWilliams; Intro/Inside Looking Out: Hon. Brian Thomas
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AFFILIATE NEWS

A conga line for liberty and how to (really) trim a state budget

■ Delaware

State Libertarians are celebrating the re-election of **Jack Dalton**, Town Commissioner of the Town of Bridgeville — who has also become the Libertarian Party's newest mayor.

"I'm thrilled that Jack was re-elected and will remain as one of Delaware's three Libertarians in public office," said **Michael Sensor**, the State Chair of the Delaware LP. "His victory, on the heels of **Jim Larsen's** win as Arden Town Assessor, shows that Libertarians can seize the reins of power if they choose their battles carefully."

Dalton was the leading vote-getter in the municipal election, held on January 9, defeating two challengers. Not only will Dalton serve another two-year term, but he was also "elected by the Commission to the President's Chair (Mayor)," he said.

■ Indiana

Government-owned buildings should have to accommodate the rights of everyone, including smokers, say Evansville Libertarians. So they're circulating fliers to stir up opposition to a proposed smoking ban in the county's civic and convention centers.

"We're not saying we want to run through the building smoking anywhere we want," said Indiana LP member **Dan Steward**. "We just want an area set aside for us."

Earlier this year, Libertarians fought unsuccessfully against a smoking ban in city buildings. Now county commissioners, who claim they're concerned about "second-hand smoke," want to impose a similar smoking ban — and \$10 fine.

"We just want designated areas to smoke," said LP member **Brian Majors**. "It's just not right to ostracize smokers."

■ Maine

The state Libertarian Party has joined in a coalition to reform Maine election laws that "harm the political process."

Libertarians have banded together with the Reform, Natural Law, Green, and U.S. Taxpayers parties to form the Maine Fair Elections Coalition.

Their goal, said **Robert Coolidge**, editor of the state LP newsletter, is to change the law to "allow all citizens to participate in the political process."

Specifically, the Coalition will attempt to reduce the top-of-the-ticket 5% requirement for "major party" status, liberalize petitioning deadlines, and reduce the current 15-month wait before new parties are recognized by the state.

"Maine, wonderful state that it is, has atrocious election laws for minor parties," said Coolidge. "Maine needs election laws that reflect the spirit of its people."

■ Michigan

A property tax proposal backed by a coalition of environmentalists and local politicians went crashing down to defeat after Washtenaw County Libertarians mounted a high-energy

campaign against it.

"Libertarian volunteers put up scores of yard signs, knocked on hundreds of doors, and raised thousands of dollars" to help defeat Proposal One in November, said **James Hudler**, Chairman of the Washtenaw County LP. The 10-year, \$32 million tax hike would have financed various land acquisition and "urban renewal" programs.

Libertarians joined with the Board of Realtors, the Home Builders and several other construction groups to form a "No-tax" coalition, which financed a TV and radio ad campaign. As a result, voters rejected the scheme, 58% to 42%.

But even though voters "spoke out loud and clear against new taxes and the ever-increasing reach of government," Hudler said, the pro-tax forces still didn't get the message.

"They claim that voters didn't understand the measure, and they're vowing to fight on. That's why our coalition is going to stay organized."

■ Minnesota

Libertarians braved sub-zero temperatures to attend the Inauguration of Governor Jesse Ventura on January 4 and deliver their own policy proposal: A \$3.3 billion tax cut.

"Many candidates boasted of coming to our Give It All Back Rally at the Capitol last year, including Governor Ventura," said State Chair **Charles Test**. "We want him to know there's widespread public support for a large, permanent tax cut — now."

Test said the governor and legislature could return most of the \$3.3 billion surplus simply by lowering income tax brackets by 1%, trimming sales taxes by 1% and reducing the car tax.

Test also urged passage of a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds majority vote to raise taxes.

"Libertarians recognize the limited role of the state; we think that voters do. We hope Governor Ventura will, too," he said.

■ Missouri

Libertarians aren't bothering to conceal their enthusiasm for an upcoming statewide vote on a concealed-carry gun law.

An audience of 40 Libertarians listened on January 17 as Steve McGhee, president of the Missouri Sport Shooting Association, told the LP state committee meeting that "the No. 1 deterrent to violent crime is the possibility of an armed victim. People have a fundamental right to protect themselves."

The Missouri LP had invited McGhee to the Columbia meeting to help build support for Proposition B, "The Right to Concealed-Carry," which will be on the April 6 ballot.

"McGhee gave compelling reasons why concealed carry should pass," said State Chair **Jim Givens**. "He pointed out that 31 states already have concealed carry, and that crime is being reduced as a result."

After the presentation, the state committee passed a resolution urging Missouri Libertarians to work for the passage of the referendum.

■ New Hampshire

The State Chair of the New Hampshire Libertarian Party has won a seat on the board of directors of the state's largest taxpayer's organization — much to her surprise.

"I got home one evening and there was a message on my answering machine that informed me of my election to the GST's [Granite State Taxpayer's] Board of Directors," said **Danielle Donovan**. "Some unnamed jokester wrote in my name, and I won."

Despite the shock value, her election may be good news for the GST, which has been "less than friendly to the taxpayer and a front for the Republican Party," she said.

"It appears that some of their fiscally conservative members have been disappointed in the GST's direction, and are attempting to wrest control from the old guard," said Donovan. "I am cautiously optimistic that this new leadership will be more responsive to Libertarian tax positions."

■ New Jersey

New Jersey Libertarians have lost an energetic lobbying battle to significantly push back the state's petition turn-in deadline — but still ended up with an improvement in state law.

On December 24, Governor Christine Todd Whitman signed S-1227/A2228, which set primary day in early June as the filing deadline for minor party candidates' petitions for general election ballot status.

"Although this is better than the old deadline, which was 54 days before the primary, activists were disappointed, since they had been trying to amend the bill to set the deadline in July,"



Petition drive means "real alternative" in Maryland

Steve Boone (center), State Chair of the Maryland Libertarian Party, and Vice Chair Lorenzo Gaztanaga turn in 13,694 petitions to Donna Duncan, State Administrative Board of Election Laws, on January 6 in Annapolis.

"Libertarians have had presidential candidates on the ballot in Maryland since the mid-1980s, and this will be our first opportunity for state and local elections in 2002," said Boone. "We want to thank everyone who has helped out by signing the petitions."

The successful drive makes the Maryland LP the first political party recognized under the state's new ballot access laws.

Boone said that petitioning will continue until the election board officially certifies that the party has more than the 10,000 valid signatures it needs under the new state law. When that happens, "people who want a real alternative to Democrats and Republicans will be able to register with us," he said.

said *Ballot Access News* publisher **Richard Winger**.

The New Jersey LP had lobbied — via testimony before a State Assembly committee and via hand-delivered letters to the governor — for the July deadline. That later deadline would have given Libertarians more time to collect petition signatures.

"Moving the filing deadline back to early June serves to erect a barrier to alternative party candidates," charged NJLP Vice Chair **Len Flynn**. "The Governor had ample time to consider her action, but apparently chose to ignore our request."

■ New York

You've got to fight for your right to party: That could be the motto of Libertarian **Travis Stewart**, who joined about 300 other irate — but dancing — New Yorkers in a four-block-long conga line protest on January 9.

The purpose of the unorthodox rally: To protest the resurrection of the 1929 "Cabaret Law" by Mayor Rudy Giuliani, which allows police to shut down any bar, club, or restaurant that allows dancing without a government license.

"[It's] a law better suited for 17th century Massachusetts," said Stewart. When it comes to dancing, "people have a right to do what they want with their own bodies and no government has any business interfering."

The conga line rally, which was organized by the Dance Libertarian Front, three-stepped-and-kicked its way up Avenue A in Manhattan before ending up at Tompkins Square Park for speeches blasting the law.

Apparently concerned that unauthorized jitterbugging or fox-trotting might break out, a heavy police presence of 40 officers and a dozen squad cars, vans, and paddy wagons monitored the march.

■ North Carolina

Want to cure the state's \$1 billion budget shortfall? Cut the size of government in half, suggested state Libertarians.

"There's at least \$6 billion in the state budget that would be better off staying in the taxpayers' pockets," said State Chair **Sean Haugh**. "And we've got the figures to prove it."

In late January, the LP of North Carolina published a 25-page Libertarian budget plan that listed 465 state programs that could be trimmed, reformed, or abolished.

"The list of taxes the plan abolishes is almost as extensive," said Haugh. "The result is a North Carolina state government almost exactly half its current size."

Libertarian proposals in-

"LP MEMBERS were not going to stand by while the measure had a free run for taxpayer money."

cluded aggressively rooting out corporate welfare; giving parents a \$2500 per pupil tax credit; privatizing alcohol sales; transferring Medicaid and other social services to private charity; and selling state properties such as the state railroads.

"We hope [the General Assembly] will do the right thing and let our citizens keep their hard earned dollars, instead of squandering billions more on their pet projects," said Haugh.

■ Oregon

Libertarians played a crucial role in the defeat of an \$82 million tax-funded convention center expansion plan on Multnomah County.

On November 3, the measure went down to a resounding defeat by a vote of 120,685 to 75,920 — thanks in large part to

a Voter's Pamphlet statement written by local Libertarians.

"Libertarian Party members were not going to stand by while the measure had a free run for taxpayer money," said **Mike Wilson**, Chairman of the Multnomah County LP.

LP members **Bob Tiernan**, **Joe Tabor**, **Ralph Edwards**, and Wilson helped draft the statement, summarizing the party's opposition.

The statement ended up the number one argument in the pamphlet, and "it may have helped defeat the measure," said Wilson.

■ Texas

After 16 years in the Republican Party — including stints as a Precinct Chair and Election Judge — a leading GOP activist has quit in disgust and joined the Libertarian Party.

On December 8, **Paul Morris** officially resigned from the Republican Party, saying, "I will devote my time and energy to the Libertarian Party, which I consider the only party committed to reducing the size and scope of government, and protecting personal liberties guaranteed by the Constitution."

In his resignation letter to GOP leaders, Morris also charged that "Republicans have no interest in fundamental change, only

perpetuating themselves in office" — and noted that Republican politicians "dole out . . . corporate welfare like Democrats dole out Aid to Families with Dependent Children."

The decision by Morris was hailed by Harris County LP Chair **Laura Coker-Garcia**, who said, "HCLP is happy to welcome him, and [we] know he will be an asset to our organization."

■ Virginia

The state Libertarian Party has a new strategy to kick-start LP activism in unorganized regions: A weekend "tour" by party leaders.

In late January, State Chair **Gary Reams**, former State Chair **Dana Johansen**, and Jefferson Area Libertarians vice chair **Jim Lark** visited four towns in the Ninth Congressional District to meet with new LP members, answer questions, and encourage the formation of local affiliates.

"The trip was extremely successful," said Lark. "The attendees were very excited [about] the trip, and each attendee seemed enthusiastic about increasing his/her level of activism. I believe we shall see substantially increased efforts to promote liberty in each of the areas we visited."

Over the weekend of January 22-23, party leaders visited

the Blacksburg-Christiansburg area, Narrows, Pounding Mill, meeting with about a dozen LP members.

"[We] were sufficiently pleased by the outcome that we are planning similar tours for other congressional districts in Virginia," said Lark.

■ Washington

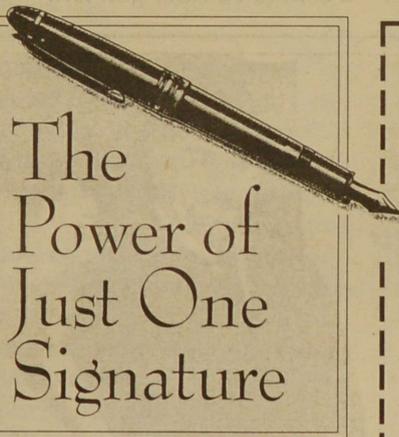
The state LP has launched Project Reach Out — a plan to contact members and prospects and get them active in the party.

Project Reach Out will make "use of the national party's reports on people who have just requested an information kit or who have just joined," said **Carol Miller**, the executive director of the state party.

Party volunteers will call new prospects, ask if they have any questions, and invite them to a local meeting, said Miller.

The phone volunteers will also have access to "an improved Web calendar from which to give directions and event details," she said.

The state party was inspired to launch Project Reach Out because of advice from **Juan Ros**, the executive director of the California LP, who noted, "This is crucial outreach. Personal phone calls helped make San Diego the largest [regional LP organization] in California."



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TALKINGPOINTS

Better politics through language, & how to weasel out of jury duty

■ The crime problem

Federal agents can seize people's house, car, wallet, boat, or other property by invoking a hundred different federal statutes, covering alleged offenses involving narcotics, wildlife, structuring withdrawals from one's bank account, having friends and relatives play poker for cash in your home, having too much cash in one's wallet or luggage, etc.

Since 1979, federal seizures of property under forfeiture laws have increased 2,500%, totaling over \$5 billion confiscated from accused private citizens and businesses.

While people are terrified of private crime, they have neglected to notice how government actions cost them far more than private criminals.

The Justice Department estimated that total losses from the 7,885 bank robberies nationwide in 1994 was approximately \$28 million. The same year, federal prosecutors confiscated \$2.1 billion in property, cash, and other goods in asset forfeiture proceedings.

— JAMES BOVARD

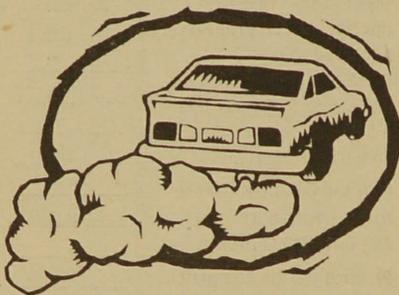
Freedom In Chains
(St. Martin's Press, 1999)

■ It's the language, stupid!

Free market advocates need to regain control of the political vocabulary. We should replace verbal smog with the crisp language of truth. Take the word "surplus." What do we do with surplus wheat or cheese? Give it to the needy. By extension it apparently makes sense to donate the surplus to federal social programs — sorry, (in Clintonspeak) "critical investments."

James K. Glassman suggests we break out of this mind-set by referring to excess revenues as "the overcharge." Unlike "surplus," this term clearly indicates that the money really belongs to

EDITED BY
Marc Beauchamp



THE GOVERNMENT is slated to spend \$200 billion on highways, while the EPA funds 340 groups who campaign to stop building them.

the people who paid it, and that they deserve a refund.

In his 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language," George Orwell cataloged some of the linguistic swindles and perversions that had long served powerful people. He wrote that "one ought to recognize that the present political chaos is connected with the decay of language, and that one can probably bring about some improvement by starting at the verbal end."

— JOHN J. PITNEY JR.

Reason magazine,
February 1999

■ A legal inspiration

In Stafford County, Virginia, a prospective juror in a criminal case was excused from jury service when he bluntly informed a county judge: "As long as Bill Clinton is not in jail, I can't vote to put anybody in jail!"

— NATIONAL JOURNAL

January 16, 1999

■ Size matters

Debate over the size and scope of government has long

been the stuff of politics, and the upcoming presidential election will be no different. Al Gore is certain to advertise his credentials as a "New Democrat" by taking credit for nearly 400,000 jobs cut from the federal payroll over the past five years.

To see the true picture one must count all the heads, including full-time federal civil servants, uniformed military personnel, postal workers, and people who deliver goods and services on behalf of the federal government under contracts, grants, and mandates to state and local government.

When all those numbers are added together, the federal government looks very big indeed. In 1996, the most recent year for which good numbers are available, the true size of government was just under 17 million, or roughly 10 times as large as the head count Mr. Clinton used when he announced the end of big government.

That 17 million includes the 1.8 million civil servants in the president's head count, plus 1.5 million uniformed military personnel, 850,000 postal workers, 5.6 million contract employees (of whom 4 million were working under service contracts), 2.5 million grant employees and 4.7 million state and local employees encumbered under federal mandates.

Although the contract, grant and mandate numbers are estimates, they suggest the presence of a huge shadow work force that accounted for 64 jobs per 1,000 Americans in 1996 — not the 11 per 1,000 advertised in that year's federal budget.

— PAUL C. LIGHT

The Wall Street Journal,
January 13, 1999

■ Arresting statistics

Increased drug arrests and longer prison sentences have not slowed illegal drug use, according to a study by the nation's largest organization of lawyers.

In a study, the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section found that illicit drug use increased 7% from 1996-1997... [At the same time], the ABA study found that 1.2 million people were arrested on drug

charges in 1997, a 73% increase over the number of people arrested in 1992.

— Gary Fields

USA Today,
February 4, 1999

■ Thank you, Monica

Some earnest souls have gone so far as to aver that impeachment has distracted President Clinton from . . . raising taxes, destroying health care, appointing 1960s bakeheads to high political office, soliciting felonious campaign contributions, hanging friends out to dry for Arkansas real estate frauds, giving missile secrets to the Chinese, taking credit for the benefits of a free market about which he knows little and cares less, using U.S. military forces as fig leaves for domestic scandals and au pairs for the U.N., leading foreign policy back into the flea circus of Jimmy Carterism, having phone sex, groping patronage seekers, and snapping the elastic on the underpants of psychologically disturbed school-age White House interns entrusted with the task of delivering high-level government pizza.

— P.J. O'ROURKE

The Weekly Standard,
February 1, 1999

■ Road to ruin

The federal government is slated to spend over \$200 billion on highways over the next several years, [while at the same time] the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is doling out taxpayer dollars to support anti-highway activism at the state and local level.

According to Peter Samuel, editor of the *Toll Roads Newsletter*, the EPA's "Transportation Partners" program derides road-building as "an expensive short-term fix" that (heaven forbid) "encourages driving," and is funding 340 groups in 43 states that feel the same way.

Recipients of EPA's anti-road largesse range from the Bicycle Federation of America to the Environmental Defense Fund. Thus, American tax dollars don't just pay for roads, they also pay for the campaign to stop building them.

— COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE UPDATE,
January 1999

■ Republican retreat

Republican control of Congress proved that Republicans do not mean their stricture against even the little bits of "big government": The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which was created three decades ago in a television environment of three networks, survives in a 500-channel world.

There is probably no Repub-

lican majority — perhaps not even a significant Republican faction — fundamentally opposed, as a matter of principle, to, say, Clinton's idea that ending social promotion in schools is a federal responsibility. Or to extending to employees of smaller firms coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

— GEORGE F. WILL

The Washington Post,
January 31, 1999

■ Leave Microsoft alone

From the American public: 40% believe the government has brought the [antitrust] case against Microsoft more to help Microsoft's competitors than to help consumers (29%). By a 2:1 margin, Americans believe the government's case is a bad use of taxpayer dollars. By over a 2:1 margin, Americans believe the federal government should "stay out of it and let the marketplace and consumers decide."

— HART-TEETER RESEARCH

(National Survey),
January 4-7, 1999

■ Jaruzelski approves

Former Polish [Communist] dictator Wojciech Jaruzelski was asked by the *New York Times* in 1993 what political philosophy did he feel close to?

"Actually, in Clinton's program I see elements I like a lot," he responded.

The former dictator presumably still likes what he sees: A faster-growing state, increased manipulation of the economy, higher penalties on the most productive and entrepreneurial, tighter direction over young people's lives, further control over the health care system, and Orwellian wordspeak about reliance on the private sector while favoring the public sector. The American president shares with the retired Polish general a belief in the infinite perfectibility of man by beneficent social engineers running the state. It is this belief that should become the new political battle line.

— Doug Bandow

The Washington Times
January 27, 1999



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■ Joseph Knight
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Flora Vista, NM 87415

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Libertarian Party Literature

■ **Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do** by Pete McWilliams. The definitive argument against "consequential crimes," packed with facts, quotes, and statistics. Paperback, 693 pages. **Cost:** \$9.95

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100.

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 7th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues; contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 1998: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-1997) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

Bumperstickers

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue).

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

■ **Buttons** (**Cost:** \$1 each or 75¢ each for 5 or more)

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

Miscellaneous Items

■ **Libertarian Party stickers.** Size: 5/8" x 2-1/8". (Red and blue.) Text: "Tired of big government & high taxes? Call the Libertarian Party." Includes LP 800#. **Cost:** Four sheets (96 stickers) for \$1. Or 25 sheets (600): \$5

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Liberty Teddy Bear:** 12" high. Brown bear, blue shirt: "Liberty Bear" on front. **Cost:** \$20.

Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (Not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, and taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP advertisements. **Cost:** \$3 for set

Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each

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Printed in green ink, the front side looks like

a Federal Reserve \$1,000,000 note. The other side explains that the Federal government spends \$1 million of our money every five seconds — and the only political party trying to change that is the Libertarian Party. There is a reply coupon and our phone number.

The "\$1,000,000 bill" is one of the most

popular LP outreach devices ever, according to activists who have used it. Using the line, "How would you like a million bucks to help pay your taxes?" LP volunteers report an acceptance rate of over 80%. People smile, laugh, and joke when they get it, and even return to get extra copies.

HOW TO ORDER:

■ The "\$1,000,000 Bills" are available for immediate shipment. **Cost:** \$5 per 100. (Call for rush shipping details.)

■ Or, order the complete "\$1 Million Tax Day" kit. It includes:

1 A 16-page booklet explaining how to use the "\$1,000,000 bill" to maximize the membership-building potential of your Tax Day rally. (Also: How to organize a successful rally; how to get more publicity; how to make signs; and more.)

2 50 samples of the "\$1 Million Bill" literature.

3 Two versions of camera-ready mechanicals to print the "\$1 Million Bills." One with the National LP's return address and phone number, and one with a blank area to personalize them with your local LP's contact information.

4 A sample press release to publicize your "\$1,000,000 Outreach."

■ Price for the complete package: **\$10.** (The **\$1 Million Tax Day** kit will be sent via Priority Mail.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs."

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains and defends the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for general audience.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined).

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes.

★ **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

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- _____ *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* book
- _____ Brochure: "Is This the New Political Party...?"
- _____ Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"
- _____ Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"
- _____ Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
- _____ Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
- _____ Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
- _____ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
- _____ Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
- _____ *Why Government Doesn't Work* book
- _____ *Libertarianism In One Lesson* book
- _____ *America's Libertarian Heritage* booklet
- _____ Million Dollar Bill Literature
- _____ Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
- _____ 1995 LP Program
- _____ World's Smallest Political Quiz

Yard Signs

_____ 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
- _____ Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

Miscellaneous Items

- _____ Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)
- _____ Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL
- _____ "Liberty" Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

- _____ Libertarian TV Ads Video
- _____ Statue of Liberty logo master
- _____ LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
- _____ Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

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- _____ Small: "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (12" h x 5' w).

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CAMPAIGN '99 PROFILE

Will "personal, down-to-earth" approach pay off for John Reda?

After heartbreaking 36-vote loss, he tries again in mayor's race

By Ron Crickenberger
LP Political Director

John Reda is ready for a victory in his second run for Mayor of Elsmere, Delaware — a partisan position he missed before by only 36 votes.

Elsmere, a densely populated suburb of Wilmington, is the fifth-largest city in Delaware. The town is traditionally a Democratic stronghold, but Reda nearly pulled off a Libertarian coup against a Democratic incumbent in 1993 by campaigning against excessive zoning and permitting requirements.

"The council back then put in [a law that mandated] permit requirements to replace a window, have a yard sale, or even put up a birdhouse! They required that a 6% fee be paid to the city for roof repairs," said Reda. "The same people have been running the town for years, and we have a real need for new leadership with fresh ideas."

The town is sure to get a majority of new leadership in the



■ John Reda: "The same people have been running [Elsmere, DE] for years."

April 24th election, as three council members and the incumbent mayor have declined to seek re-election. Despite the second highest property tax rate in the state, the Elsmere council managed to run up a \$261,000 deficit on a 1996 budget of less than \$1.5 million, drawing the ire of residents.

When the council scheduled a vote to raise taxes to pay off the deficit, Reda organized a citywide leafletting campaign,

urging citizens to attend the meeting and speak out against the increase.

"It worked — but only temporarily," said Reda. "The council was afraid to raise taxes in the face of open opposition. But instead of cutting spending they went to a state fund to bail us out. We should have cut waste here at home instead of going to the state for a handout."

Refused to pay

"People here are fed up with the council to the point of civil disobedience," he said. "[Residents] completely ignore many of the zoning requirements, and when the council tried to raise everyone's garbage fees by \$50 a month, so many people refused to pay it that the council was forced to rescind the ordinance."

In his first run, Reda received the endorsement of three former Democratic mayors, and knocked on nearly every door in the town.

"I'll be doing door-to-door work almost daily from now till

the election," he said.

"A personal, down-to-earth approach is how I came close to winning last time."

Much closer?

Reda may, in fact, have come much closer to winning last time than the 36-vote margin indicates. Thirty-five more votes were recorded than actual voters who checked in with the clerks — more than enough to swing the election. "We couldn't prove fraud then, but we're sure going to be on top of it ahead of time for this election," said Reda.

Reda's roots run deep in Elsmere. A Delaware native, Reda has worked for the Newcastle County government for 26 years as a heavy equipment operator. Reda hosts a Saturday morning jazz show on a local radio station and plays drums and sax with a local band.

If Reda wins, it will be the biggest partisan victory the Libertarian Party has achieved in the lower 48 states with only a Libertarian ballot line.

■ **Want to support the Reda for Mayor campaign?** Send contributions to: The Reda Committee, 1905 Orleans Road, Wilmington DE 19810.

■ **Want to see your campaign in LP News?** If so, contact LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger at: 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037. E-mail: RonCrickenberger@compuserve.com.

New Bovard book is out in February

James Bovard, one of the most influential libertarian journalists of the 1990s, released a new book in February.

Freedom in Chains: The Rise of the State and the Demise of the Citizen (352 pages), published by St. Martin's Press, was available in bookstores on February 22.

The book "looks at the development of the State into a behemoth that threatens to destroy the individual at the cost of preserving the idea of *statism* — the belief that government is inherently superior to the citizenry... and that vesting more arbitrary power in government officials will eventually make citizens happy," said St. Martin's Press.

"*Freedom in Chains* is must reading for anyone trying to understand how far we've come from our eighteenth century roots as a community of impassioned patriots to our sorry positions as wards of the state at the end of the twentieth century."

Bovard is the author of the hard-hitting *Lost Rights: The Destruction of American Liberty* (1994), an almost endless litany of specific and outrageous violations of individuals' rights by the government. He has also had articles and essays published in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*.

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Michigan LP match books for sale

Continued from Page 3

green and black, ask: "Smokers, have you had enough of . . . getting kicked outside in all kinds of weather; being taxed again for every new government scheme; paying over \$2.00 a pack for cigarettes worth only 20 cents? Then maybe you're a LIBERTARIAN."

The Michigan LP first used the matches just before last fall's election by leaving a box at every tobacco shop, bowling alley,

and bingo parlor they could find, said O'Brien.

"The response was incredible," he said. "The first time I approached a location, I didn't even try to explain. I simply handed the owner one of the matchbooks and said with a smile: 'Here, read this.'

"The 'Yes...YES...YES!!' reaction as the guy read each of the points was like a scene out of *When Harry Met Sally*. I explained

that there was no charge, we merely wanted him to hand them out for free to his customers. He nodded eagerly and snatched the box out of my hand."

20 cases

Michigan Libertarians went through their first 20 cases of outreach matches in a matter of weeks and are now awaiting the production of their 20 case re-

order, said O'Brien.

"The great thing about this is that it's an outreach program that requires no work to create, and is so inexpensive on even a small scale that anyone can take advantage of it," said Michigan LP vice chair, Stacy Van Oast, who is coordinating the project.

"Plus, it is so narrowly targeted — I mean, who else besides smokers even picks up a book of matches?"

The Michigan LP is offering the match books for sale by the case — 50 boxes of 50 books (2500 total books) — for \$100

plus \$10 S&H anywhere in the U.S. Minimum order: One case. Any shipping address must have a person there to receive during business hours as shipper cannot leave them outside — "for obvious reasons," said O'Brien.

■ **To order**, send check or money order payable to Libertarian Party of Michigan for \$110/case to: LP of Michigan, 604 North Vernon, Dearborn, MI 48128. For information about custom printing (which has minimum four-case order) call Van Oast at (810) 784-8783.

Minnesota legislation

Continued from Page 3

be made as politically difficult as possible," said Westover.

■ **Shorten legislative sessions**, and have the Legislature meet only in odd years.

■ **Change ballot access petition requirements** to conform closer to Ron Paul's Voter Freedom Act of 1997.

■ Pass a "**Responsible Tax Cut**" to reduce state spending growth to be no greater than the rate of inflation or the rate of growth in personal income.

■ Pass a Minnesota version of the **Family Education Freedom Act**: "This bill would amend the IRS Code to allow individuals a credit against their income taxes for tuition and related expenses at public and non-public schools," said Westover.

■ Create a **Privatization Initiative Panel**, which would consider government priorities by determining what activities are inherently governmental and which could be more efficiently provided by a private source.

■ Pass "**Sunset**" **legislation**, so every state law, program, and agency expires after a certain period of time.

Revolutionary?

"Philosophically, libertarians might argue for a [more] revolutionary campaign for individual freedom based on the planks of the LPMN Platform," acknowledged Westover.

"However, the political reality is that an electorate composed of coalitions of interest groups requires a utilitarian as well as a principled reason to discard its government security blanket. Thus the need for this legislative agenda proposal."

If implemented, the Libertarians' proposals would move Minnesota "toward a prosperous society based on the principles of maximum liberty," he said.



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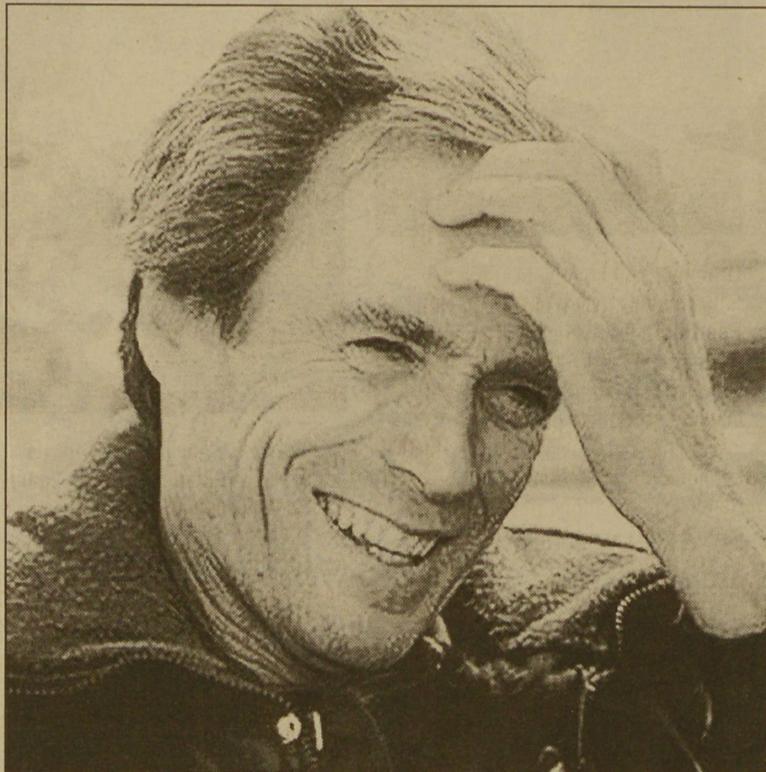
"The Essence of Political Persuasion" was created by communications expert **Michael Cloud**, professional speech writer and Keynote Speaker at the 1998 Libertarian Party national convention

Friends of Liberty

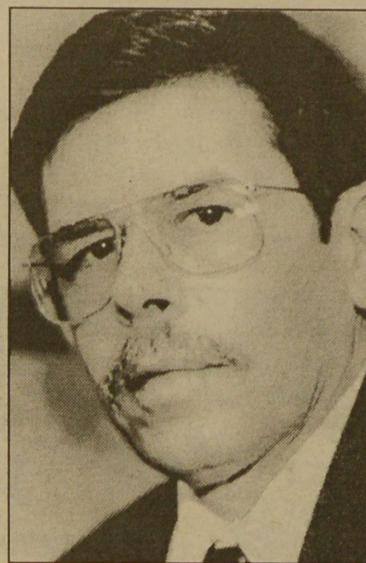
Over the past few years, "libertarian" has morphed from a word that nobody could pronounce into a description that, seemingly, everybody wants to embrace.

From movie stars to baseball players, from economists to magicians, more and more Americans are identifying themselves as "libertarians," or speaking out about their support for libertarian concepts of limited government and individual freedom.

Here is a quick look at some of the prominent Americans whose public statements have earned them the title, "Friends of Liberty."



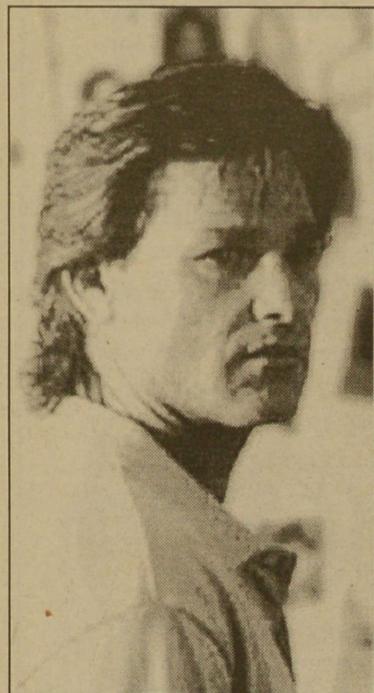
Clint Eastwood is one of the world's biggest film stars and directors. The list of his blockbuster films includes *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964), *Dirty Harry* (1971), *Any Which Way You Can* (1980), *In the Line of Fire* (1993), *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995), and *Absolute Power* (1997). In the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (November 17, 1997), he said: "I've always taken the libertarian point of view. Quit messing with everyone." And in an interview with *Playboy* magazine, when asked to describe his politics, he said: "Libertarian... Everyone leaves everyone else alone." (March 1997.)



Art Bell, the fourth most listened-to radio talk show host in America, joined the LP in 1998, saying, "The Libertarian Party is the only viable alternative to the Republicans and Democrats." Bell's show is syndicated on 389 stations and has an estimated 9 million weekly listeners.



Camille Paglia, the iconoclastic author of *Sexual Persona* and *Vamps and Tramps*, has described herself as a "60s-style liberal libertarian." In an interview on C-SPAN, she even claimed, "The Libertarian Party has written to me and asked me if I would be their presidential candidate." (June 4, 1998)

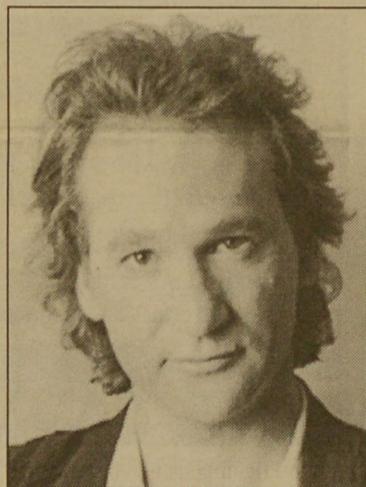


Movie star **Kurt Russell** has appeared in *Silkwood* (with Meryl Streep), *Tango and Cash* (with Sylvester Stallone), *Backdraft* (with Robert DiNiro), as well as *Escape from New York*, *Tombstone*, *Stargate*, *Executive Decision*, and *Breakdown*. He attended the Cato Institute's 20th Anniversary Banquet in 1997, and told the *Washington Post*, "I'm a libertarian. I think a lot of people are libertarians and are afraid to admit it." (May 2, 1997). And at a Beverly Hills breakfast, Russell introduced former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, saying, "I'm not a Republican, I'm a Libertarian." (*Los Angeles Times*, January 16, 1998)

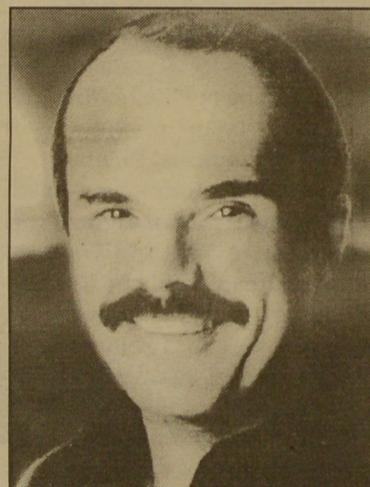


Penn Jillette is the bigger and louder half of the magic team of "Penn and Teller" — perhaps the most popular pair of professional magicians in the world. When not touring, he stars in the variety show, *Penn and Teller's Sin City Spectacular*, on the Comedy Central cable network. He's also a Libertarian Party member, and stopped by the LP's national headquarters in Washington, DC, on October 31, 1998.

Special Feature Presentation of LP News



Stand-up comic turned sharp-witted host of ABC's *Politically Incorrect*, **Bill Maher** has mentioned his interest in libertarian ideas many times on the show. He has also had prominent libertarians — including David Boaz, Charles Murray, and Harry Browne — as guests. On the November 12, 1997 *Politically Incorrect*, Maher said, "I count myself as a libertarian, also."

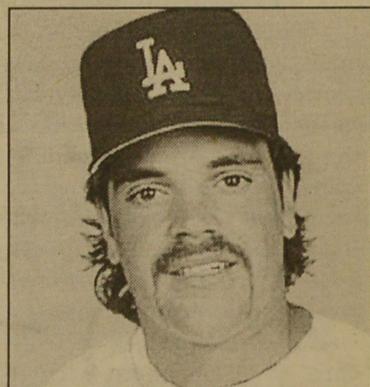


Dean Koontz is the #1 bestselling author of *Intensity*, *Sole Survivor*, *Fear Nothing*, and *Dark Rivers of the Heart*. Politically, he said, he has "developed a profound distrust of government. I remained a liberal on civil-rights issues, became a conservative on defense, and a semi-libertarian on all other matters." Quoted in *The Dean Koontz Companion*, (1994).



P. J. O'Rourke has been called "one of the funniest writers in America" by *Time* magazine, and "the funniest writer alive" by the *Wall Street Journal*. He is a Mencken Fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute, and the author of several best-selling books, including: *Parliament of Whores*; *Holidays in Hell*; and *All the Trouble in the World*. His most famous quote may be: "Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

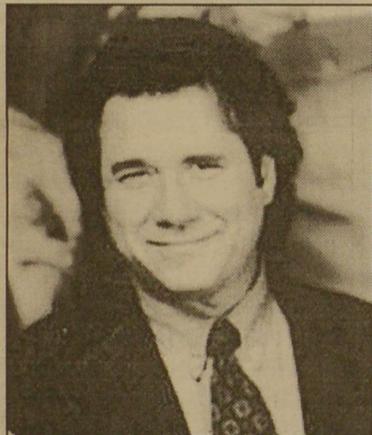
Except as otherwise noted, being featured on this "Friends of Liberty" list does not imply endorsement of any political party or specific political issues.



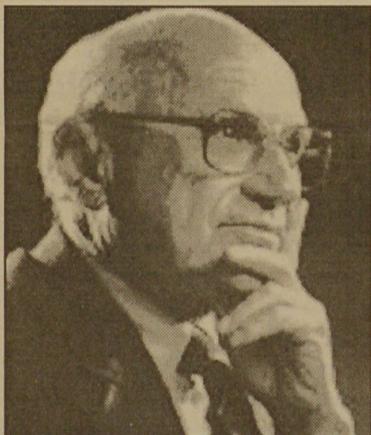
Professional baseball player **Mike Piazza**, who made his reputation with the Los Angeles Dodgers before moving to the New York Mets. "When it comes to politics . . . I'm more of a libertarian, I think," he told *Penthouse* magazine (October 1997).



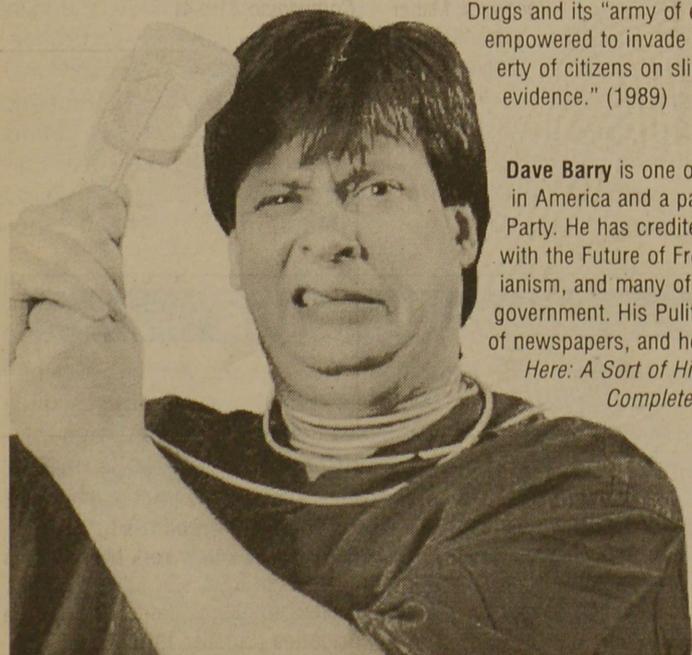
Drew Carey is the star of the hit ABC sitcom *The Drew Carey Show*, top stand-up comic, and author of the best-selling new book, *Dirty Jokes and Beer*. He's also a supporter of the Reason Foundation, and an outspoken fan of limited government. In an interview in *Reason* magazine, he said that when it comes to government, "the less the better. As far as your personal goals are and what you actually want to do with your life, it should never have to do with the government. You should never depend on the government for your retirement, your financial security, for anything. If you do, you're screwed."



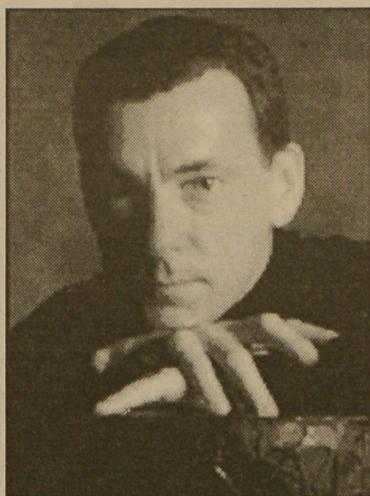
John Laroquette is a four-time Emmy winner. He is familiar to millions of Americans for his starring roles in TV shows such as *Night Court* and *The John Laroquette Show*. On Tom Snyder's *Late Late Show* Laroquette told guest host Jon Stewart that he was a libertarian and a member of the Libertarian Party, declaring that Libertarians are "serious people with important ideas."



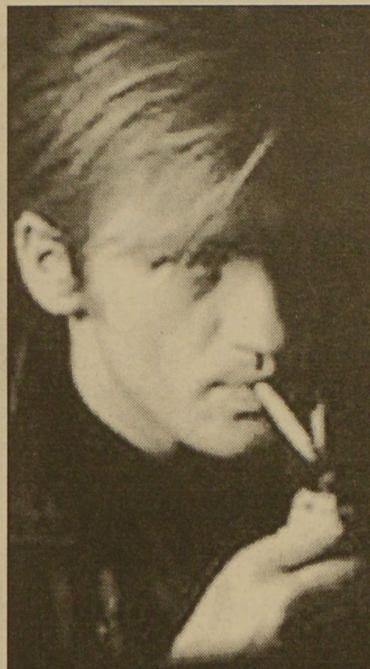
Milton Friedman is one of this century's most distinguished and influential economists. He is a Nobel Laureate, and has been a presidential advisor, and *Newsweek* columnist. His books *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962) *Free To Choose* (1979) are classic defenses of libertarian-style capitalism. He has also stated: "I am a limited-government libertarian" (1991), and is an outspoken opponent of the War on Drugs and its "army of enforcers empowered to invade the liberty of citizens on slight evidence." (1989)



Dave Barry is one of the most popular humorists in America and a past member of the Libertarian Party. He has credited libertarian writer Sheldon Richman (currently with the Future of Freedom Foundation) with converting him to libertarianism, and many of his columns reflect an "everyman's" cynicism of government. His Pulitzer Prize-winning column is published in hundreds of newspapers, and he is the best-selling author of *Dave Barry Slept Here: A Sort of History of the United States*; *Dave Barry's Complete Guide to Guys*; and *Dave Barry in Cyberspace*.



Drummer and chief lyricist for the long-running rock band Rush, **Neil Peart** first discovered libertarian ideas through the works of Ayn Rand. Rush's 1976 album, *2112*, was inspired by Rand's novel *Anthem*, and in the liner notes Peart declares his admiration for "the genius of Ayn Rand." Rush's songs often reflect a strong individualist slant. Their best-known song, "Tom Sawyer," celebrates individual freedom. Among the lyrics: "His mind is not for rent / To any god or government."



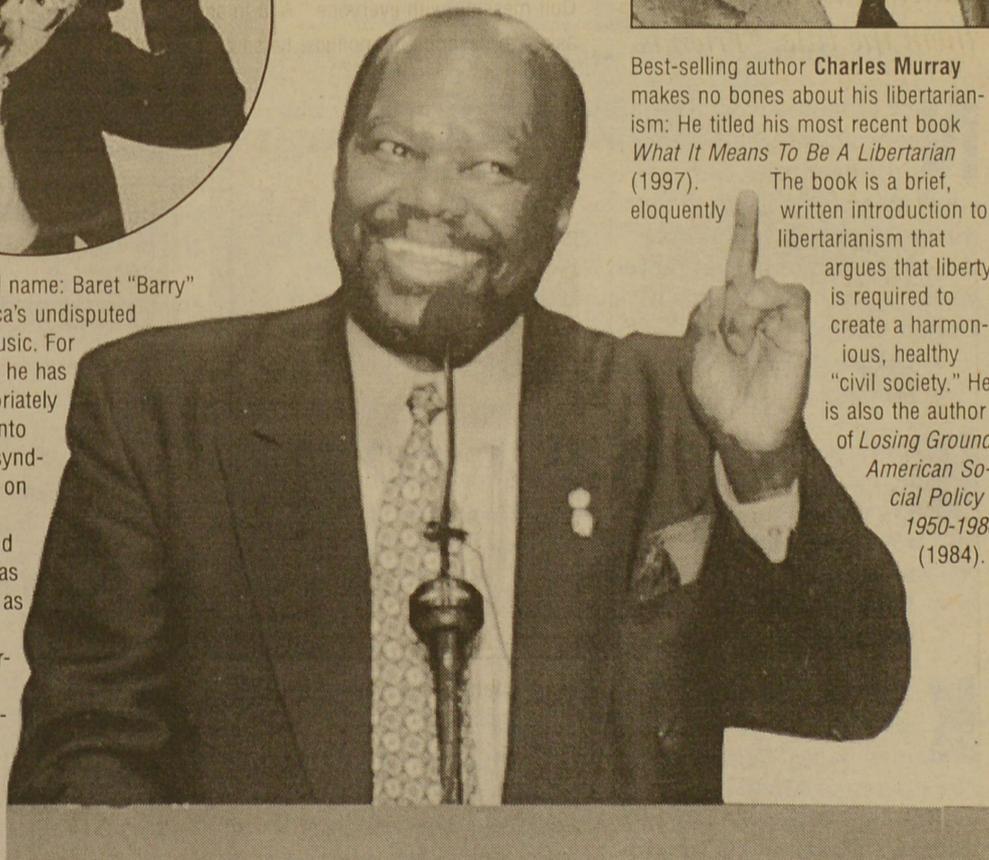
On the *Tom Snyder Show*, top comedian and film star **Denis Leary** told Snyder he was a "libertarian" (April 24, 1998). Leary has appeared in some two dozen movies, among them *Wag the Dog*, *The Matchmaker*, *Two If By Sea*, *The Ref*, and *Demolition Man* (where he played a fast-talking individualist rebel in a future society). He's also headlined an acclaimed HBO one-man show (*No Cure For Cancer*), is a successful stand-up comedian, and starred in a series of groundbreaking advertisements for MTV.



Lead singer and harmonica player for the popular rock group Blues Traveler, **John Popper** has identified himself as a "libertarian" several times, including interviews on MTV and the Howard Stern radio show. Some of his songs also reflect his libertarian perspective, including "Support Your Local Emperor." The lyrics state: "Support your local emperor / Pay him tribute every time / . . . But could you tell me what he's ever done for you?"



Dr. Demento (real name: Baret "Barry" Hansen) is America's undisputed king of novelty music. For the past 25 years, he has hosted the appropriately named "Dr. Demento Show," a weekly syndicated radio show on 200 stations that features "weird and wild songs." He has described himself as a "libertarian" for years, and has performed as a DJ at parties at past Libertarian Party national conventions.



Best-selling author **Charles Murray** makes no bones about his libertarianism: He titled his most recent book *What It Means To Be A Libertarian* (1997). The book is a brief, eloquently written introduction to libertarianism that argues that liberty is required to create a harmonious, healthy "civil society." He is also the author of *Losing Ground: American Social Policy 1950-1980* (1984).

On February 4, 1998, **Roy Innis**, nationally known civil rights figure and head of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) joined the Libertarian Party. CORE is the third-largest civil rights organization in America, and differs from more traditional, left-leaning civil rights organizations in its emphasis on individual liberty — CORE's mission statement says in part that "the most fundamental freedom for all people is the right to govern themselves." After joining the party, Innis said, "You [Libertarians] have the kind of principles this country needs more of."

Special thanks to the Advocates for Self-Government for kind permission to reprint photographs and text from the "Libertarian Celebrities and VIPs" site at their Web page, www.self-gov.org. "When people discover that internationally renowned entertainment figures, writers, intellectuals, and other prominent figures are proud libertarians, it gives a lot of credibility to our ideas and our movement," said Advocates President Sharon Harris. "It's not that people will become libertarians just because Clint Eastwood, Kurt Russell, or Dave Barry are — but they may be intrigued enough by that to want to learn more about the ideas."

OTHER PERSPECTIVES: What's being said about the "Know Your Customer" law

From all appearances, federal regulatory authorities have become repositories of fascism. Little Hitlers are everywhere. They surfaced recently at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which published a "regulation" on December 7 requiring every bank to spy for the government on every customer. The regulation requires banks to commit many invasions of privacy that are strictly illegal under existing laws. Among the Gestapolike requirements, banks are instructed to monitor all customer transactions and to report any unusual pattern of deposits and withdrawals.

— PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS, *The Washington Times*
February 8, 1999

The Know Your Customer proposal forces banks to become agents of the police, spying and reporting on their own customers — without ever obtaining a warrant. It's an appalling attempt to do an end-run around our Constitutional rights of privacy. The Know Your Customer rule has no place in a free country. No American citizen should be treated like a suspect.

— SOLVIEG SINGLETON (Cato Institute),
The Washington Times, January 10, 1999

Not only does [the Know Your Customer regulation] represent a toppling of our legal heritage and a dangerous philosophic shift, it is also a ridiculously heavy burden to place on financial institutions.

The many bankers who have contacted my office have said they are not sure which is worse: The heavy toll this will take on our precious liberties, or the high cost these rules will mean for the institutions and passed on to customers.

— CONGRESSMAN RON PAUL (R-TX), January 31, 1999

New proposed federal regulations will convert banks into conspirators against their customers. The Know Your Customer rules, announced in the Federal Register, could be a landmark in the history of the subversion of American privacy and property rights. If people acquiesce to this expansion of federal power, it is certain that, in future years, regulators will come back and demand even deeper intrusion into people's lives.

— JAMES BOVARD, *The Washington Times*
January 28, 1999

By April 1, 2000, every FDIC bank in the country would be required to establish a program to systematically spy upon all of its customers, record the results of this spying, and rat out to the Feds any suspicious customers [under the Know Your Customer regulation].

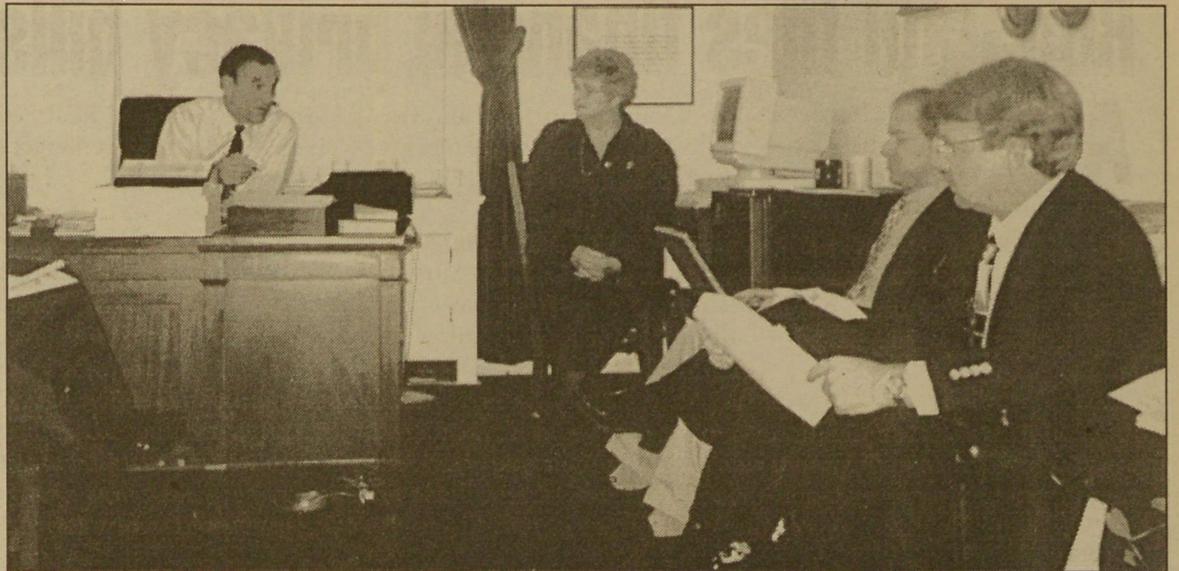
— MICHAEL KELLY, *The Washington Post*
February 3, 1999

Know Your Customer rules send privacy to the cleaners. Among the clear losers under the new rules would be small banks; Robert Rowe of the Independent Bankers Association of America termed the proposal a "compliance nightmare." Also hard hit would be residents of many lower-income and immigrant neighborhoods. Lawrence Lindsay, formerly a Federal Reserve Board governor and now a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, has noted that honest poor persons, after scrimping to amass the cash for a down payment on a house, are now stymied when wary bankers demand that they prove their money is untainted.

— WALTER OLSON, *Reason* magazine, March 1999

Under the guise of ending drug use, the government is able to do things that would have appalled the American people a few generations ago. [The Know Your Customer rule] is just the latest thrust of the jackboot onto the throat of Lady Liberty.

— SHELDON RICHMAN (The Future of Freedom Foundation), January 1999



■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger (far right) attends Congressman Ron Paul's (R-TX) press conference announcing three new financial privacy bills on February 3. One of the bills would squash implementation of the Know Your Customer rule. [See story on page 17.]

Anti-bank spying campaign grows; LP launches new privacy website

Continued from Page 1

greater detail, allows people to send e-mail comments directly to the FDIC, and lets concerned citizens rebroadcast the original e-mail letter to more people.

"We're hoping to create a chain letter-type phenomenon, where people visit our website, file a comment to the FDIC, and then let more of their friends know about this resource," said Dasbach. "If it works, we hope to generate tens of thousands of hits on our website — and tens of thousands of complaints to the FDIC.

"Basically, we want to put the power of the Internet — and the pro-privacy ideology of most cybercitizens — to work to defeat this regulation." [See "What you can do to help" on page 17.]

Media response

The party has also used the Know Your Customer regulation to generate an unprecedented media response, said George Getz, the LP's press secretary.

"We've never talked about an issue that has produced this kind of reaction from radio talk show hosts — or the American public," he said.

Since January, Getz, Dasbach, and LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger have done 48 radio interviews about Know Your Customer, and appeared on 406 individual stations. Response from the public has been so intense that Getz has been invited to appear on some stations two, three, and four times, he said.

"Once people hear about this issue, the phones light up," he said. "They can't believe it at first — and then the reaction is that this time, the government

GEORGE GETZ:
"Once people hear about this issue, the phones light up."

has gone too far. People are concerned about privacy, and are overwhelmingly on our side about this issue."

One radio interview even caused a senior member of the House Banking Committee to call in and promise to hold hearings on the Know Your Customer regulation.

In a January 11 interview on WJBO in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Getz and host Ed Buggs were blasting the proposal when U.S. Representative Richard Baker (R-LA) called the show.

"He said he was concerned about the regulation, and said he would get the House Banking Committee to hold hearings on it," recounted Getz. "I pressed him to let a representative from the Libertarian Party testify — since we seem to be the only political party that's 100% op-

posed to it. Since Baker voted for the bill that originally authorized Know Your Customer, I'll believe his promise when he actually comes through."

In other Know Your Customer news, Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), the 1988 Libertarian Party candidate for president, has filed a trio of bills to squash the regulation, curb federal regulation of banks, and protect Americans' financial privacy. [See story on page 17].

Presumed guilty

"I've heard from literally thousands of people, and not one of them wants the government to require banks to implement these massive new programs which turn every customer into a presumed-guilty suspect," said Paul when he announced the bills.

The Libertarian Party has joined the Ad Hoc Coalition for Financial Privacy, set up to rally support for Paul's bills.

Know Your Customer is being opposed by a wide coalition of political, banking, civil liberties, and privacy organizations, including the Eagle Forum, American Civil Liberties Union, the American Bankers Association, and the Free Congress Foundation.

Corrections/Updates

■ In the February 1999 issue of *LP News*, in an "Affiliate News" item about Massachusetts, David Rostcheck was incorrectly described as a "Boston-area Libertarian" active in the campaign for the Freedom of Marriage Act and the Freedom of the Bedroom Act. In fact, he is not an LP member, but an activist with the Bisexual Resource Center, which supports the legislation.

■ A final vote result for the November 1998 elections has been announced: Libertarian Donald E. Kurtti, Jr. won 44 votes in his race for the Herman Board of Trustees in Nebraska.

Ron Paul files financial privacy bills

A new line of attack has been opened against the Know Your Customer regulation: Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) has introduced several bills to overturn the FDIC's controversial proposal and to protect "the financial privacy rights of American citizens."

On February 3, Paul announced three pieces of legislation to specifically prohibit the FDIC from implementing Know Your Customer, to repeal other federal banking regulations, and to open up federal financial files to the public.

"We proclaim that American citizens have the right to be free of the snooping, spying, prying eyes of government bureaucrats," said Paul at the press conference announcing the bills.

Peace of mind

"This legislative package will, once enacted, give Americans the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their every financial step is not being filed away and viewed as potentially criminal. This package restores and protects the fundamental privacy and due process rights that are the foundation of our system of government."

The three bills in Paul's "Financial Privacy Protection Package" include:

■ **The Know Your Customer Sunset Act** (HR 516): This legislation would prohibit the FDIC, Federal Reserve, and other agencies from implementing the Know Your Customer regulations. Paul said about a dozen lawmakers have already agreed to join him as co-sponsors of HR 516.

■ **The Bank Secrecy Sunset Act** (HR 517): This legislation would sunset the Nixon-era Bank Secrecy Act, "a loosely written law which has been much-abused (allowing regulators to create Know Your Customer, for example) to the detriment of the customers of financial institutions," said Paul. The Sunset Act would require that Congress either re-write the law, or devolve the regulatory power to the states.

■ **The FinCEN Public Accountability Act** (HR 518): This legislation will allow American consumers to see the files created on them by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Net-

work, similar to laws allowing individuals to access the files created on them by the FBI and credit bureaus.

"It's time for Congress to reign in the creeping Surveillance State; the time has come, the people are demanding it," said Paul.

For more information on the bills, visit: <http://www.house.gov/paul/privacy/>.

LP National Director Steve Dasbach said that, for the time

being, the party will treat Paul's bills as an "in case of emergency, break glass" option.

Wait and see

"We're going to wait to see exactly what the FDIC decides after the March 8 deadline expires for public comments on Know Your Customer," he said. "Depending on what happens, that could be the time to mount a major lobbying campaign in favor of Paul's bills."

What you can do to help

- If you haven't done so already, send a comment to the FDIC:
 - Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attn: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429.
 - Or fax: (202) 898-3838.
 - Or send e-mail to: comments@FDIC.gov.

Note: The FDIC's e-mail system is apparently being overloaded by complaints, and some Libertarians' e-mail is bouncing back. If that happens, try again later, or mail your comments.

- Visit the Libertarian Party's anti-Know Your Customer website. Use it to comment to the FDIC or to send e-mail to your friends encouraging them to get active in the campaign.
 - www.DefendYourPrivacy.com



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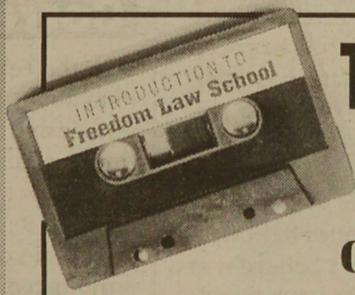
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NEWS BRIEFS

The world's most popular political quiz?

The World's Smallest Political Quiz is rapidly becoming the "world's most popular political quiz" — thanks to a recent spate of publicity for the Advocates for Self-Government's website and its famous quiz.

Over the past several months, the Advocates' website — www.self-gov.org — has been featured in *PC Novice* magazine, *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine, and in a new political science text book, *American Government: The Politics of Diversity*, said **Sharon Harris**, president of the Advocates for Self-Government.

The Advocates' site was also showcased on the MSNBC cable news network; on the Larry Elder radio show; on the Houghton Mifflin publishing company website; and on C-SPAN.

"Breakthrough!" said Harris. "Houghton Mifflin, *Yahoo!*, *PC Novice*, Larry Elder, C-SPAN . . . these are big names, and I'm excited by the exposure they've recently given our cause."

Thanks to the publicity, more than two million people have visited the Advocates' website since 1996, said Harris, and over 320,000 have taken the Quiz — with 41% scoring Libertarian.

The World's Smallest Political Quiz is a four-way political map that accurately measures whether people are conservative, liberal, libertarian, or authoritarian. It was developed and promoted by the Advocates, which is a Georgia-based, non-partisan libertarian educational organization.

LP "clothing criminals" start defense fund

Two LP activists who were arrested in New Mexico for the "crime" of wearing Libertarian Party clothing near a voting booth have started a legal defense fund, and are soliciting funds for their upcoming trial.

"It amazes me that in a country that calls itself democratic, a voter could go to prison because of the clothing he wears," said **Gary Fincher**.

In November 1998, Karen and Gary Fincher were stopped from voting by poll workers for wearing an LP jacket and t-shirt respectively, both of which featured the party's Statue of Liberty logo. Election staff said their attire violated state law that prohibits "campaigning" at the polls.

When Gary Fincher declined to remove or cover his shirt, they were arrested and detained until after the polls closed. They face a 364-day jail sentence and up to \$5,000 in fines. At the time, both Finchers were working on Maurice McDonald's Libertarian campaign for State Land Commissioner.

The Finchers have established a legal defense fund to defray legal costs which are estimated at \$5,000.

"If Libertarians across the country will chip in to help fund our legal defense against these outrageous charges, then that will go a very long way toward deterring these kind of egregious police state actions in the future," said Gary Fincher.

■ **Contributions can be sent to:** Fincher Legal Defense Fund, Daniel Bartholomew, Trustee, c/o Los Alamos National Bank, P.O. Box 60, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

Larry Elder: National syndication next?

Los Angeles fans of the libertarian/conservative radio talk show host **Larry Elder** may soon have to share him with the rest of the country — the self-described "sage from South Central" may soon get a national syndication contract.

Elder, who has been described as a "fire-brand libertarian" by local media and who gave a popular speech at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention in which he declared, "I am a libertarian," is negotiating with ABC Radio Network and could finalize a syndication deal within a few months, according to *Variety* magazine.

Despite his bold libertarian positions — everything from sharply limiting the power of the federal government to legalizing prostitution to ending affirmative action — Elder has become the highest-rated talk show host on KABC-AM radio.



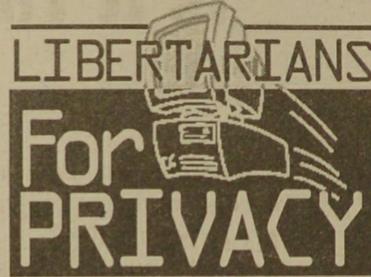
Larry Elder:
National show?

Libertarian code-cracking team wins new \$1,000 encryption prize

The Libertarians for Privacy team — a pro-encryption rights group which has been working for months to crack an "uncrackable" code — took a short vacation in January to break another code, and won a \$1,000 prize in the process.

On January 19, Libertarians for Privacy was honored as the winning team in a contest to crack a message encrypted with a 56-bit Data Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm. The contest was sponsored by RSA Data Security, Inc. and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).

"The Libertarians for Privacy team shattered the old 56-hour record by finding the secret key to unlock [the] message in just 22 hours and 15 minutes," said Hardy Macia, team organizer.



The Libertarian team was joined in by the EFF's "Deep Crack," a customized code-cracking machine built by Libertarian John Gilmore, a long-time supporter of encryption rights.

The purpose of the contest was to prove that 56-bit DES-encryption technology — which is still widely used by financial services to protect sensitive on-line information — is inadequate. DES is the strongest data-scrambling technology legally sanc-

tioned by the U.S. government.

"We hope the result of [this contest] delivers a wake-up call to those who still believe DES offers adequate security," said Gilmore.

Now that the 56-bit DES contest is over, the Libertarians for Privacy team will go back to their ongoing effort to help crack a 64-bit encoded message, said Macia. Hundreds of LP members are contributing the spare processing cycles of their home computers in that effort.

■ To join the Libertarians for Privacy team:

Contact Macia via e-mail at: vtlpRC5@catamount.com.

Or visit the L4P Website at: <http://www.catamount.com/rc5/rc5-join.html>.

LP bucks odds at S.S. forum

Continued from Page 4
horribly outnumbered."

The program began with a short speech by Hillary Rodham Clinton — and that's when Ros said he realized that the Libertarians faced an uphill battle.

"Despite ADSS's policy that they take no position on Social Security reform, all the literature was very biased in favor of minor reforms while keeping the current system in place," he said.

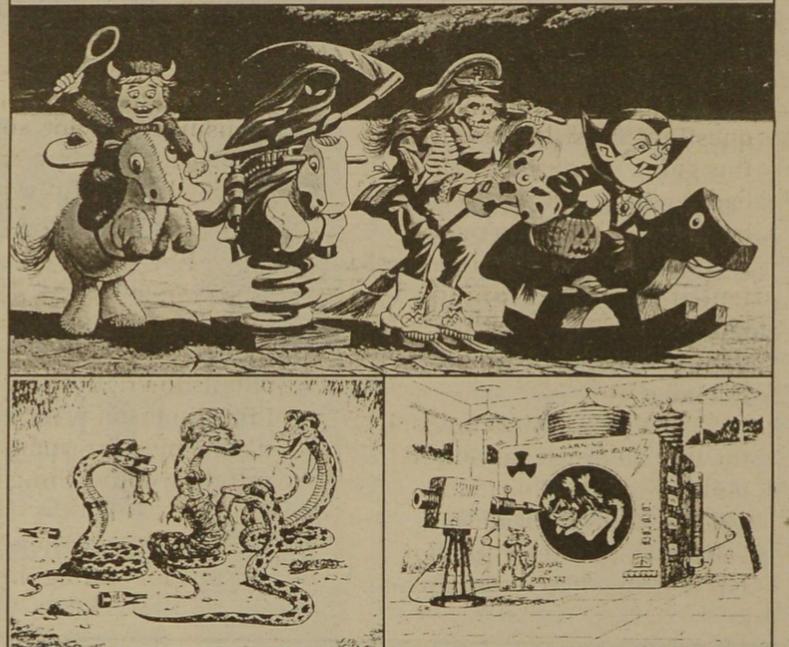
During roundtable discussions of reform proposals, Ros said he tried valiantly to argue the merits of privatization.

"My table in particular had a majority of seniors, who were opposed to any structural changes in the current system," he said.

What did Ros learn from this experience?

"Libertarians need to be vigilant and attend as many of these types of events as possible," he said. "We need to be informed and persuasive. And we need to realize that even when we're philosophically outnumbered but we still manage to reach one or two people, that we've made a difference."

Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County



This new novel by Titus Stauffer is a wacky tale of lawyersaurs, Quart Low Trackers, Ale Run Hubba-Bubba and His Church of Omnology, Panderwood, and officials at THEMNOTUS and NADGRAB run amuck. A tale so utterly bizarre as to defy all rationality. A tale beyond belief. But then we get to the annotated end portion of the book and we see that *Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County* is based on FACTS - facts too irrational, crazy and destructive to be pure fiction. Church, State, Media, and Hollyweird have provided all the madness spoofed here. Fun, yes, but also a disturbing warning about how destructive irrationality runs rampant in our modern, supposedly enlightened scientific age.

Other works by Titus Stauffer: *Bats in the Belfry*, *By Design* is a near-future hard science fiction novel about a U.S. weapons designer who regrets helping a freedom fearing government.

Freedom From Freedom Froms is a sequel which continues to throw pointed barbs at many who fear real freedom.

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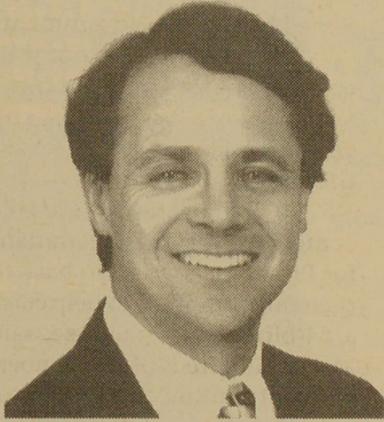
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Is It Time to End the War on Drugs?

by Jacob G. Hornberger



Hardly a week goes by without some mention in the media of the war on drugs. Record drug busts, money-laundering schemes, increasing drug abuse, gang warfare, thefts and robberies, political corruption, infringements on bank privacy, searches and seizures, confiscation of assets, arrests, convictions, and incarcerations.

If the overall situation — both with drug usage and the drug war — keeps getting worse, shouldn't Americans be asking some fundamental questions: How long is all of this going to continue? How bad do things have to get before people finally recognize that the war on drugs has failed? How many infringements on individual liberty and privacy must still be tolerated?

The policy question is: If the war on drugs has admittedly failed to achieve its objectives after decades of warfare, and if the situation has continued to worsen over

the years, then why shouldn't this government program simply be terminated?

Of course, the basic moral question is: Why shouldn't an individual be free to engage in self-destructive behavior? Isn't that the very essence of human freedom? If a person is not free to do bad, harmful things to himself, then how can he truly be considered free? Under what moral authority does the state regulate and punish an adult for doing something bad to himself?

The true test of a free society is not whether people are free to engage in what the state defines as "responsible" conduct. After all, even the Chinese and North Korean people are "free" by that standard. The real test of a free society is whether an individual is free to engage in irresponsible behavior, so long as it does not interfere, in a direct and forceful way, with the ability of others to do the same. In other words, as long as a person doesn't murder, rape, steal, burglarize, defraud, and the like, freedom entails the right to do anything a person wants, even if it's the most irresponsible and self-destructive thing in the world.

There are also pragmatic reasons for ending the drug

war. For one thing, even if it were capable of succeeding, the price in terms of liberty and privacy would be high. After all, they can't even keep drugs out of prisons. How would they finally keep them out of people's homes — with government cameras and drug-sniffing dogs and children who are taught to rat on their parents?

Moreover, when a person desires or needs some drug, making possession or distribution of the drug illegal is unlikely to achieve its intended result. Since making drugs illegal restricts supply, the price is artificially forced upward. Drug users are usually going to do whatever is necessary to get the money to pay for their drug. Thus, it is not a coincidence that burglaries, robberies, muggings, and thefts increase when drugs are made illegal. When was the last time you saw a wino stealing money to pay for wine?

The most effective way to treat drug addiction is through therapy, not incarceration. That's why Alcoholics Anonymous has been so effective in treating alcohol abuse. But therapy entails an addict's freely talking about his addiction and the underlying reasons for his addiction. By making drug use illegal, the

drug war has the opposite effect — it makes it much more difficult for people to come forward and openly seek treatment.

Ironically, ending the war on drugs would be more likely to achieve the type of society in which most of us would like to live: a peaceful, harmonious, law-abiding one. Does that mean that people wouldn't take drugs? Of course not. But it would mean that prices would drop and that drug users would have less incentive to steal or rob to get the money to pay for the drugs. It would also enable addicts to talk freely about their addictions, openly admit they have a problem, and seek treatment.

Most important, ending the war on drugs would move us in the direction of replacing the paternalistic state, and its massive infringements on liberty and privacy, with a government whose powers are limited to protecting the right of the individual to live his life as he chooses so long as he respects the right of everyone else to do the same. Isn't this the principle on which our nation was founded?

Mr. Hornberger is president of The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va.

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION

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THE FORUM

Always outvoted five to one; a Libertarian in office reports

As Washtenaw County's (Michigan) only elected Libertarian, I would like to offer this report on recent activities concerning my position as Superior Township Parks Commissioner.

Let me preface by stating that I am acutely aware that I represent the Libertarians of Washtenaw County whenever I am acting in an official capacity in my elected office. Even though the office I hold is trivial by political standards, I still feel it is a matter of principle that I cast votes and decide issues by following the precepts that Libertarians hold dear.

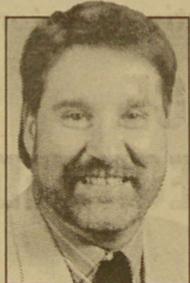
Remain loyal

To that end I remain loyal to the two oaths I have taken in this regard: Firstly, the Libertarian pledge that I do not believe in the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and secondly, the oath of office to uphold the Constitution of these

United States and the sovereign state of Michigan.

It should be noted that nearly every function of the Superior Township Parks Commission is in violation of the non-initiation of force, and often contrary to the spirit of said constitutions. I should also note that I have one vote of six, and that there is no one else on the Commission who feels as I do on this matter. Thus, I am usually the lone dissenter on most votes.

That is not to say that my Libertarian principles are completely ignored or have no effect. On the contrary, the stark contrast with the viewpoints of the others often enables some members to question their own views.



By Brett Cashman

Perhaps the most important issue that has come before me recently was the projected budget for 1999.

Some background: The Superior Township Parks Commission was authorized by a vote of the people in 1974. Recreational responsibilities were added by ordinance in the early 1980s. It is my opinion that the department serves little useful function, is not popular among the citizens, is a burden to the Township Council — and thus should be abolished. The department's budget is allocated from the township general fund (tax money), and supplemented by grants from other government agencies (tax money) and a small amount of private organization grants and donations.

For fiscal year 1999, the chair of the Superior Township Parks Commission moved that we request approximately \$130,000 from the Township Council.

During discussion, I offered

an amendment to change that amount to "zero dollars." When asked why, I explained my principles on the matter and offered the opinion that we would be better serving our constituents by de-funding the department.

Plus, we would all probably become celebrities by being a government agency that put itself out of a job! My amendment failed 5 to 1. The original budget passed (5 to 1) and was eventually approved by the Township Council.

Another controversial vote that I cast was a "No" vote to recommend a person to replace an open position on the Parks Commission (for a commissioner who had resigned).

The election last November for Parks Commissioner did not have any candidates listed to fill that vacancy. Since no one ran, no one was elected. The usual procedure in this matter is for the Superior Township Parks Commission to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the Township Council to appoint a replacement.

None of the above

I objected to this on the "none of the above" principle. If no one was interested enough to run and the people had spoken by electing nobody, then nobody should fill the position. Also, the prospective candidate stated her main qualification for the job was her experience at writing government grants! She was recommended on a 4 to 1 vote, and

the township appointed her unanimously.

My other Libertarian positions have been "No" votes to apply for, approve, spend, look into, consider, or even think about government grants. These intergovernmental transfers of stolen wealth are the poison of our republic. They buy influence, political patronage, and turn local governments into fawning, begging, pawns of the state and federal government. Unfortunately, to a local government official, receiving a grant is like hitting the lottery. No one (but a Libertarian) would ever refuse this "free" money.

I have also moved at several meetings that the Superior Township Parks Commission move to remand all funds in our budget back to the general fund, sell off all assets, and return the money to the township. This motion is never seconded and is often ruled out of order as the chairperson feels the Parks Department can request and spend tax money — but not give any back.

My goals for the future are to attempt to convince the Commission to sell off the Recreation Building — and I am looking into ways to get a ballot initiative to repeal the Superior Township Parks Commission.

■ **Editor's note:** Brett Cashman has been serving as Parks Commissioner in Superior Township (Michigan) since 1996. This essay is reprinted from the January 1999 issue of the Washtenaw Libertarian.

Why political "compromise" has become a dirty word

Why the R's and D's always give away your rights

Compromise: Theoretically the cornerstone of representative government. It is the basis by which diverse interests can come to accord and ultimately live with each other. But, alas, the trend of compromise lately has been very disturbing.

Democrats, formerly defenders of civil liberty, have consistently allowed these liberties to be compromised in the interest of "protection" or "safety" — in exchange for concessions to the liberal agenda in the form of increased regulation and taxation.

Republicans, formerly the defenders of property, gun, and states' rights, have compromised their position in order to obtain increased spending on their pet projects — such as prisons and missile defense.

Consider recent crime bills. Republicans want harsher sentences for convicted drug dealers. They want more money for

federal prisons and police officers. They want to increase the search powers of these officers. All to "protect our youth from the scourge of drugs."

Republicans claim citizens have the right to bear arms to defend themselves and their families. Yet they are far too willing to compromise these rights away to secure the increased powers they feel are necessary.

Empowerment

Democrats want more education and welfare to give citizens "empowerment." They want to restrict access of citizens to guns. They feel it is the obligation of the federal government to "help" neighborhoods that don't seem to have the ability to help themselves. All to "protect our youth from the scourge of poverty and violence."

Democrats claim citizens

By John Anderson

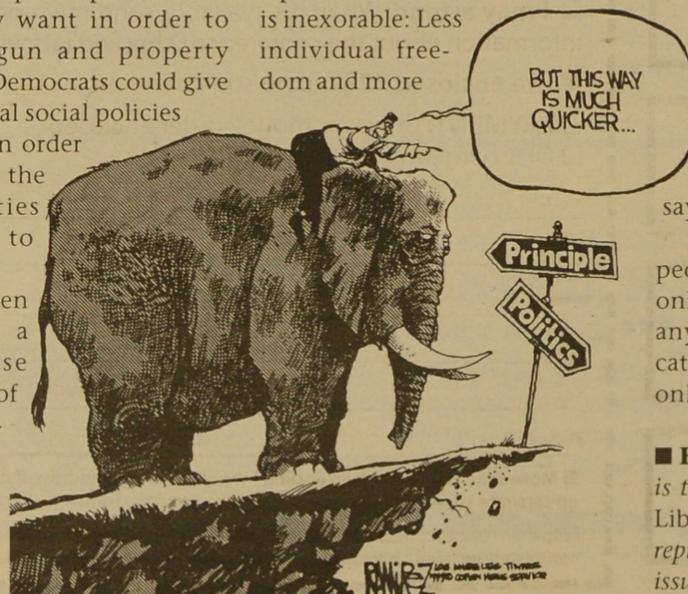
have the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure; that police must have limits on their power. Yet they are far too willing to compromise these principles away to achieve their goals of increased regulation and social welfare.

So the answer, of course, is compromise. The Republicans could give up the prisons and police they want in order to maintain gun and property rights. The Democrats could give up the federal social policies they want in order to maintain the civil liberties they claim to hold dear.

How often does such a compromise for the sake of freedom occur? Sadly never — and why should it? Legislators

work to gain core constituencies of special interests, rarely doing what is best for the population as a whole. This is how they make themselves attractive to the special interests that finance campaigns.

The pressure is firm and constant. Without diligent philosophical dedication to the principles of freedom, the result is inexorable: Less individual freedom and more



government power.

Even without the pressure of the special interests, the result may be the same. Consider the career politician. To the extent he can pass legislation to increase the size of his "business," he is a success — just as we see those who expand their private enterprise as successful.

The buck stops ...

The responsibility of maintaining a free society rests with the voter. It has been said that the "buck stops" with the president. I say it stops with the voter.

To the extent we elect these people, we deserve them. The only reason we should vote for any candidate is for their dedication to freedom. For this is the only way we will keep it.

■ **Editor's note:** John Anderson is the editor of the San Diego LP's Liberty newsletter. This essay is reprinted from the February 1998 issue of that newsletter.

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"I'VE BEEN TO TWO STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP AND CAMPAIGN WORKSHOPS PUT ON BY THE REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS. THIS BEATS BOTH OF THEM!"

— Richard Chamberlain, former Georgia State Representative

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— LP member Kay Evans

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— LP member John Evans

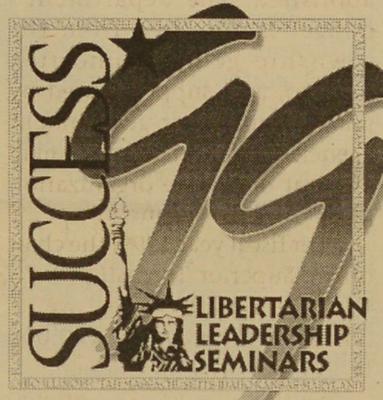
It is said that Libertarians can't agree on anything. But they agree on this: If you want to learn the techniques of Libertarian political victory, then Success '99 is the place to go.

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From THE DIRECTOR

How you can be part of the '44% solution'

Will you be part of the 44% solution?

We recently took a detailed look at the people who have joined the LP (or become a non-member contributor) since 1991. By examining how many renewed their membership or made additional contributions on a year-by-year basis, we discovered an astounding thing:

- Year after year, only 44% of those who join (or become a contributor) renew their membership or make an additional contribution that first year. However:

- Of those who renew or make a contribution that first year, over 93% continue to renew year, after year, after year.

Our challenge is to dramatically increase that 44%.

At the national level, we will be striving to strengthen the bond between our new supporters and their new party. We will be providing new members and contributors with more ongoing information about the political activities and projects of the Libertarian Party. We are also adding a staff person at the national office (advertised elsewhere in *LP News*) whose primary responsibility will be to serve the needs of our members and contributors.

However, the *real* potential to increase that 44% lies with our local Libertarian Party organizations, and the local campaigns of Libertarian candidates.

New Libertarians who are invited to local Libertarian activities, who are welcomed by other LP members, and who are encouraged to get involved, will be much more likely to *stay* active and involved than those who have trouble finding a local organization. By getting more involved in your local organization, *you* can play an important role in increasing that 44%.



By Steve Dasbach

LP National Director

But suppose there isn't an active local Libertarian organization in your community?

When a friend of mine (currently a State Chair) and I joined the LP in late 1979, we called up the national office to find out who was running the Libertarian presidential campaign in our state. The response: "Funny you should ask." The next thing we knew, my friend was chairing the presidential campaign in our state, and I was working with him.

The fact is, the Libertarian Party is nothing more or less than the sum of what each of us is willing to do to make it grow and succeed. The success of your local organization depends on what you are willing to do to make it happen.

Fortunately, there are a lot of Libertarians willing to make success happen. I had the pleasure of meeting over 80 of them at the first two Success '99 workshops, held in Orlando (Florida) and Seattle (Washington).

They were Libertarians ready to work together to establish new local organizations . . . Libertarians committed to making their existing organizations more successful . . . Libertarians preparing to wage aggressive campaigns to get themselves and their fellow Libertarians elected to public office.

In the months ahead, I will have the pleasure of meeting with hundreds of other Libertarians with a similar commitment to liberty. I hope that you will be among them, and I urge you to get involved with your local LP organization, and/or a local Libertarian campaign.

Working together with other Libertarians to build a new political party dedicated to liberty has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life. By dedicating some of *your* valuable time toward being a part of the 44% solution, you will be able to experience those rewards for yourself.

Managing suburban growth . . . destroying Americans' freedom

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 Joseph L. Bast

Several times each year for the past 23 years, I've driven from Chicago to Appleton, Wisconsin, and back again. I've seen the fields and woodlands along Highways 94 and 41 gradually replaced by office parks, shopping malls, and residential developments. Over the years, the change has been dramatic.

Urban sprawl worries some people. They say it will lead to a shortage of agricultural land, deplete the planet's limited supplies of fossil fuels, and load the air we breathe with hazardous pollutants. Others worry that sprawl reinforces social inequalities by separating jobs from workers and encouraging race- and income-based isolation. Still others think sprawl is compromising our quality of life by taking away the intimacy, social connectivity, and sense of social identity that come from living in compact neighborhoods.

The environment

I have a difficult time taking seriously any of the concerns raised by the growth control crowd. What triggered my skepticism were the claims of environmental damage that so often accompany calls for growth management.

Urban expansion is, in fact, responsible for surprisingly little conversion of either forest or croplands into roads, houses, and parking lots. In 1945, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, urban land uses accounted for just 1% of the area of the U.S. By 1992, that figure had risen to 3%. Forests covered 32% of the U.S. in 1945 and 30% in 1992. Cropland stayed unchanged at 24%.

Urban sprawl is not correlated with a decline in air quality. Air quality in nearly all major American cities has dramatically improved during the past 20 years, even as suburban sprawl boomed. Concentrations of all six of the air pollutants tracked by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fell dramatically between 1975 and 1991: Dust and airborne ash fell by 24%; sulfur dioxide by 50%; carbon monoxide, by 53%;



QUESTION:
What should be done to halt "urban sprawl"?

ozone, by 25%; nitrogen dioxide, by 24%; and lead, by 94%.

Will the long commutes caused by sprawl lead to depletion of the world's petroleum supplies? Not in our lifetimes, and almost certainly not in our children's. During the past 20 years, estimates of oil reserves have increased nearly every year due to new discoveries and technological advances, even as we consume more gasoline with every passing year.

Development

Those who blame suburbs for luring industry and jobs away from cities, leaving behind many skilled but unemployed workers, have confused cause with effect. As cities grow, property values in their central business districts rise, prompting businesses that require large amounts of space — typically manufacturers — to leave, and companies requiring less space — typically service providers — to enter. The new companies are less likely to impose nuisances upon their neighbors

— noise, odors, and smoke — than the companies they replace. While the migration of manufacturers from central city locations is inevitable, the net loss of jobs by cities is not. New employers will take the place of businesses that leave, provided adequate crime protection, quality schools, reliable transportation, and other basic requirements of urban living are met.

When suburban expansion harms low-income families, it is usually due to government policies that inflate the cost of housing in suburban areas, making it more difficult for low- and moderate-income families to relocate. Many suburbs require large lot sizes, restrict the number of new developments, and act in other ways to prevent the construction of affordable and multiple-family homes.

Rather than complain that the poor cannot travel to suburban jobs, advocates of growth management ought to campaign for the *repeal* of policies that unnecessarily restrict the supply, or increase the price, of housing.

Inefficient?

It is a myth that the cost of providing infrastructure and services is significantly higher for low-density suburban development than for high-density urban locations. Randal O'Toole says empirical investigations consistently find that lower operating costs in the suburbs more than offset the higher initial capital costs of installing new infrastructure.

Some say automobile owners don't pay enough in taxes and other fees to cover the full cost they impose on society, and that ending that subsidy would slow urban expansion. But a careful study of taxes paid by road users in 1992 found total revenues of \$114 billion, while spending on roads that year (including law enforcement and administration) was just \$76 billion. The difference, some \$38 billion, was used to finance social services and other infrastructure needs.

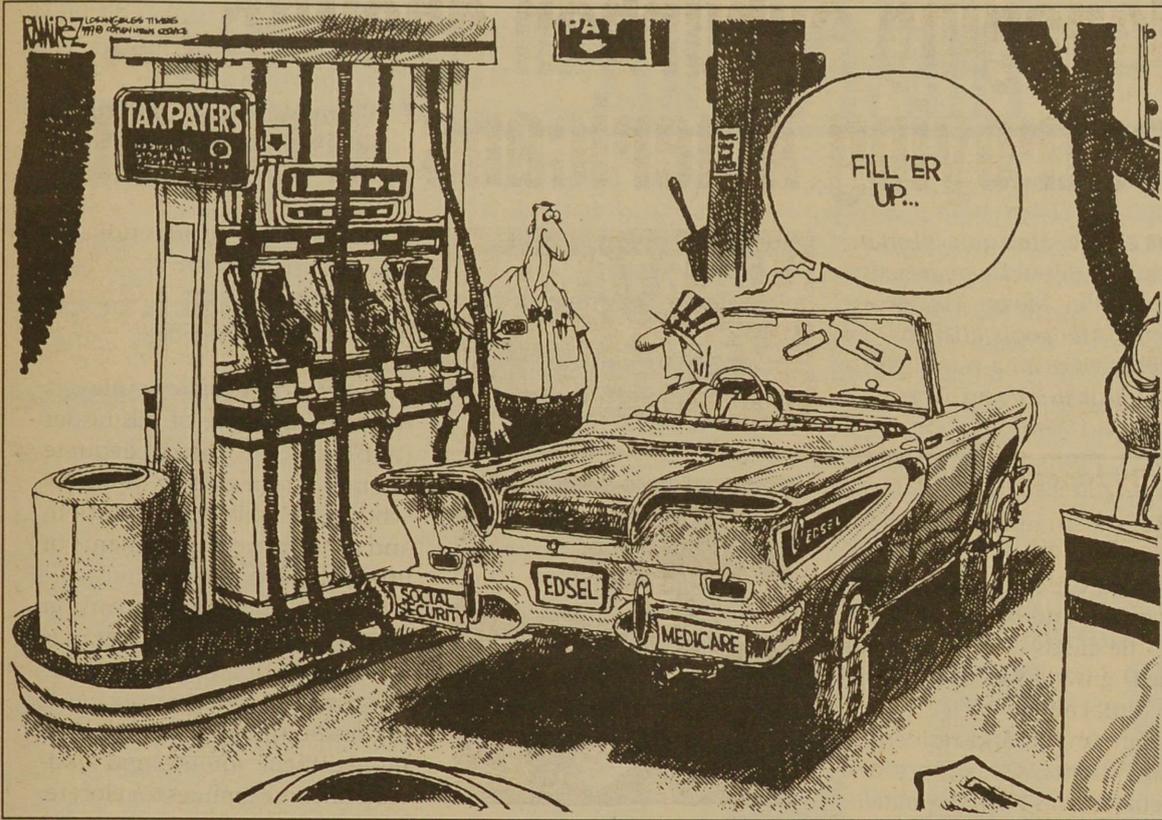
Quality of life

I lived in a small town for my first 18 years, then in Chicago for 16 years, and in a rather distant suburb of Chicago for the past six years. Reflecting on the benefits and disadvantages of all three locations, I find it impossible to say one is better than the other.

See **URBAN SPRAWL** Page 26

Libertarian Online Guide

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THE MAILBOX

Law or regulation?

In my most recent copy of the *LP News*, I see repeated mention of a new "Law" concerning bank privacy ["LP works to stop bank spying law," February 1999]. It appears that my own party cannot distinguish the difference between a real law passed by representatives elected by the people, and signed by an elected executive, and a "regulation" imposed on us by unelected bureaucrats.

This is where the real battle is. If we tamely send our petitions to an unelected bureaucracy which imposes its whims on us by fiat, we have already given up the struggle for freedom. If we resist and refuse to recognize such unconstitutional restrictions on our freedom, and if we send our protests to our elected representatives who have abdicated their duties, perhaps we have some hope of restoring a government of law.

I am shocked and dismayed that the party of freedom cannot differentiate between a law passed by Congress and a regulation imposed on us by unelected bureaucrats. Perhaps this is the real problem. Even the defenders of freedom have lost the meaning of the word.

— JOHN LEWICKE
Mason, New Hampshire

■ **Editor's note:** In fact, the "Know Your Customer" provision is both a proposed regulation and a proposed law. In late 1998, the U.S. House passed HR 4005,

"IT APPEARS MY own party cannot distinguish between a law and a regulation."

the Money Laundering Deterrence Act, which instructed the FDIC to implement the Know Your Customer policy.

Just plain stupid

In reference to the article, "Michigan Libertarian stops county anti-smoking law," [*LP News*, February 1999] I would like to comment on this.

Referring to smoking as "property rights" is just plain stupid. I believe smokers have a right to smoke wherever they want as long as they don't force others to breathe their smoke and/or are a fire hazard. Like anything else one's right ends when it takes away someone else's right. We all have a right to breathe clean air

Abortion and Rights: Applying Libertarian Principles Correctly

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and not have our clothes and hair all stunk up. Please, let's keep things in perspective!

— FRED C. HAMMERSTEIN
Cookeville, Tennessee

Christian Libertarian?

LP News seems especially proud of a new Christian LP member Greg Cunningham ["My Exodus to Libertarianism," February 1999]. His outstanding virtue seems to be that he came to realize that most Republicans lack the courage of even their lukewarm support for individual rights. Hurrah?

The key to Greg, as he is eager to point out, is his Christianity, not his Libertarianism. He is likely in the short run to be an active promoter of LP programs — as long as they do not promote the fundamental Libertarian value of individual sovereignty. He opposes, as already do too many other LP members, the right of a woman to her own body — and, by extension, the fundamental right of anyone to manage their own body. He simply thinks it is best for them to do so most of the time.

Greg found he could support legalization of drugs only after hearing the argument that the Bible did not "sanction the state to regulate what chemicals a person used." I fear that, over time, other people will find many passages in the Bible that do suggest such sanction, and many more sanctions, may be possible.

The foundation of Christian

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THE PULSE

Libertarians' novel heroine

What does it take to be a Libertarian hero? Running for president or running a free-market think tank helps; as does winning a Nobel Prize or helping to win the Revolutionary War.

But the *best* way to become a hero, according to readers of *LP News*: Publish several lengthy, best-selling books; start your own philosophy; and (eventually) get your own commemorative stamp. That explains why Ayn Rand, the Russian-born Objectivist author, won this month's unscientific Pulse poll on "My Libertarian Hero" — winning a solid plurality, with 15.5% of the vote.

Coming in second: Fiery orator Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger, president of the Future of Freedom Foundation, with 6.6% of the vote.

And in a tie for third place (each with 4.4% of the vote) were Thomas Paine (Revolutionary War-era author of *Common Sense*); Milton Friedman (Nobel Prize-winning economist); Karl Hess (presidential speech writer and past *LP News* editor); and Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate and author of *Why Government Doesn't Work*).

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ **Ayn Rand:** No one has articulated so clearly to so many the flaws of statism as Rand has. And no one has so brilliantly conveyed the hope and excitement of living in a principled, libertarian society as Rand has.

— Allen Tiffany, Cypress, Texas

■ **Thomas Jefferson:** For his advocacy for a small, limited government. Jefferson did more than any other man to counterbalance the power of the blue-blood Federalists, and keep power with the states and with the people.

— Jim Cheaney, Colo, Iowa

■ **Ayn Rand:** *Atlas Shrugged*. Need I say more?

— Mark Hinkle, Morgan Hill, California

■ **Milton Friedman:** Need I say more?

— Aaron Clemens, Las Vegas, Nevada

■ **Gene Roddenberry** (creator of *Star Trek*): By bringing Libertarian principles in sci-fi form to millions of people around the world, he has helped the development of the Libertarian Party in an effective, subtle manner.

— George F. Wright, Meadville, Pennsylvania

■ **Robert Heinlein:** His passionate defense of libertarian ideas in his fiction was able to reach me much more powerfully than the dryer styles of Hayek or Hazlitt.

— Tony Valle, Oviedo, Florida

■ **L. Ron Hubbard:** Through his writings and lectures he gave me back my patriotism and desire to help my country. His writings helped me find the Libertarian Party. He made me believe if I worked for my principles, I could make a difference in the world.

— Diane Lichtensteiger, Clayton, Alabama

■ **Mark Scott** (radio talk show host, Detroit, Michigan): The airwave's leader against government tyranny. Mark fights everyday for the liberty and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

— Eric Myers, Flagstaff, Arizona

■ **Karl Hess:** More than anyone else I ever met, he lived the libertarian philosophy that he espoused. The man exemplified the amazing potential of a libertarian society.

— Henry Haller, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

■ **Harry Browne:** His book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, opened my eyes to the tyranny of the Federal government. One must respect the high standard he set for LP candidates in the future.

— Michael Oberg, Lawrenceville, Georgia

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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 23

■ **Dennis Kurk**, my dad. In 1972, I was going to vote for George McGovern because I believed he would stop the war in Vietnam. Then my dad gave me information about the Libertarian Party and it made perfect sense to me. Because of my dad, I voted for the very first Libertarian candidates, and have voted Libertarian ever since.

— **REBECCA KURK**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota

■ **Jacob Hornberger**: His conviction in supporting our principles is unquestionable and uncompromising. Bumper can't be bought because he has no price.

— **DAVE STEVENS**, Millington, Tennessee

■ **William Blake**: He continuously used his art to condemn the state's power to push people's individualism down. He did this at great personal risk.

— **CHRISTIAN G. DAVIS**, Fayetteville, North Carolina

■ **Peter McWilliams**: After I read *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* a couple of years ago, I stopped reading fiction in favor of non-fiction books. The prohibition of consensual activities had always seemed absurd to me, but McWilliams really brought home the level of injustice

— **JERRY RIVARD**, Newton, Connecticut

■ **Nobody**: I was not converted to libertarianism, so I cannot claim a mentor or idol. I feel my Libertarian thought is in my bones.

— **E.W. ANDERSON**, Naples, New York

May Question: Libertarian society's virtues?

Ask Libertarians why they are politically active, and some will answer with a litany of government abuses they are fighting *against*. Others, however, will list what they are fighting *for*: A society where volunteerism has replaced coercion; a flowering of private charity; better business opportunities; a nation at peace; and so on. With that positive spirit in mind, think about the "perfect" Libertarian society (whatever your personal definition is) you'd like to live in and tell us: What will be the *single best thing* about a Libertarian America? In other words, what is the hoped-for "pay-off" that keeps you active in the Libertarian movement?

■ **QUESTION**: What will be the single best thing — political, social, economic, cultural, whatever — about a Libertarian society? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE**: April 5, 1999

April Question: The Death Penalty?

From A to Z, the Libertarian Party platform tackles every imaginable political topic. *Almost*. Conspicuous by its absence is one major "hot button" issue: The death penalty, on which the LP takes no official position. Why? Because it's one of those rare issues where there is no obvious Libertarian position. Some Libertarians favor the death penalty, arguing that it is the only fitting punishment for some crimes, such as murder. Other Libertarians oppose it, arguing that it puts too much power in the hands of the government.

■ **QUESTION**: Should the LP take a position on the death penalty? If so, should we be for it, against it, or something else? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ **DEADLINE**: March 5, 1999

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.
 ■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include "Pulse" in subject line.)
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 ■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

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support for Libertarian morality rests on the same quicksand that supports Republican morality: The Bible. Many "religious" people are good citizens, not making religion a major part of their political and economic views. However, religion, by its nature, promotes altruistic morality, and negates reason as a foundation. Large-scale expansion of the LP, not by Libertarians, but by "Christian Libertarians," will undermine the LP's long range goal — assuming that goal is a free society, not simply winning elections.

A true Libertarian, such as John Adams says, "Let justice be done, even though heaven falls."

— **JACK GARDNER**
Austin, Texas

Atheist-Libertarians?

I found Greg Cunningham's essay on his "conversion" to Libertarianism very interesting; but I fail to understand "hyphenated" Libertarianism, as in Christian-Libertarian.

The first Libertarians I met back in the seventies were almost all atheists, but they did not call themselves atheist-Libertarians. Although an atheist myself, I don't think I would care to join if they did. In a Libertarian society, government neither promotes nor forbids religious beliefs or lack thereof.

At a Christian-Libertarian meeting, are there signs saying Asians, atheists or whatever also welcome?

— **HELEN WEAVER**
Westland, Michigan

Left-field solutions

Perhaps the page one article on the "Libertarian Utopia" really is a gag [LP News, January 1999]. Then again, maybe it isn't.

When it comes to life, there is no Utopia, only tradeoffs. One person's Utopia is another person's Hell.

The idea of private money is just one of the article's absurdities. The LP has used much ink to complain against the baseless "fiat" money printed by the government. Now we're supposed to replace that with baseless fiat money printed by everyone and his dog? The example given of private coupons, redeemable for specific goods or services is hardly representative of universally accepted legal tender. Having to be familiar with the financial reliability of a jillion money printers is Utopian?

C'mon. Get real. The LP has a hard enough time being taken seriously even with its more rea-

sonable ideas. Espousing obviously flawed, left-field "solutions" isn't going to help.

— **DON WACKER**

Issaquah, Washington

■ **Editor's note**: "Libertarianism's Stealthy Triumph" was not a detailed blueprint of a Libertarian future, but was, instead, a look at some of the surprising ways that libertarian-style ideas have made headway into our *present* culture.

The phrase, "Libertarian utopia," was meant in an ironic (not literal) way. As LP National Chairman David Bergland has stated so memorably, "Utopia is not an option."

Libertarians can (and do) debate how large government should be, and this article attempted to add to this discussion by pointing out that in an increasing number of cases, people are *already* creating alternatives to government services. We can only assume that in a (non-utopian) Libertarian future, many of these private alternatives would continue to exist and flourish.

**"WHEN IT COMES
to life, there is
no Utopia, only
tradeoffs."**

A small step

I enjoyed your article "Libertarianism's stealthy triumph" in the January LP News. I was surprised that a few days after I read your article, I came across an article from the *Dayton Daily News*. It certainly has a libertarian headline about the privatization of 911 emergency services ["Private company offers 911 call option"].

The system outlined is only a small step towards privatization of this government service, but I was extremely pleased that the headline seemed more libertarian than the text. I think it shows a significant step in winning the rhetoric of the debate.

— **JEFFREY V. ZWEBER**
Kettering, Ohio

Pro-censorship

Only people who believe in censorship respond to questions like the one in the February Pulse column of the LP News ["Which Libertarian issue triggers your shut-up reflex?"].

Libertarians believe in open discussion of all controversial is-

sues. If I don't believe in what someone has to say, I still defend their right to say it.

This quasi-survey of the not quite libertarian segment of the readers is not representative of the whole party.

Ask a stupid question, you get a stupid answer.

— **RANDY BRYAN**

Gadsden, Alabama

■ **Editor's note**: Actually, not a single one of the respondents in that Pulse column advocated "censorship" — which, as Libertarians know, is the use of government force (or the threat of force) to suppress free speech. Instead, they merely expressed a *wish* that Libertarians would not discuss certain political issues in certain ways. As far as the Pulse not being "representative of the whole party," every column notes that this is an unscientific survey, representing *only* the viewpoints of the people who choose to respond.

A famous name

I believe that the Libertarian Party needs a famous name to run for President. Harry Browne would be a great president, but we should realize that to further the party we should run Milton Friedman, Drew Carey, Clint Eastwood, Kurt Russell, or even Dr. Ron Paul (the Congressman from Texas), who would make a big impact by bringing a lot of Republicans into the fold while alerting Democrats that their party is not the one for true social freedom.

Unlike populists Perot or Jesse "The Body" Ventura, our candidate would have a plan and a true slogan of freedom on their lips that could not be entirely ignored by the media — since there are libertarian defenders in the press.

— **AARON CLEMENS**
Las Vegas, Nevada

President Penn

The LP can learn a lot from Jesse Ventura's successful gubernatorial campaign: Namely, that a dynamic personality can encourage a hell of a lot of political activism. (And I don't mean form without substance; you need brains to be a Navy SEAL.)

So how about a run for the White House along these lines? Find a presidential candidate who is not only wildly popular among younger demographic groups, but who is a demonstrably outspoken advocate for First Amendment rights. Give him a partner who, although he never speaks while within his public persona, nevertheless has more personality than the entire Clinton administration combined and is (I believe) a fellow of the Cato Institute. Put them on the

THE MAILBOX

road, where they've been happily bizarre for over 20 years, and let 'em rack up the votes.

All together now: Penn and Teller in 2000!

— **TRACEY ROSENBERG**
Aurora, Illinois

President Eastwood

Rob Kuzman made an astute observation [The Mailbox, January 1999] regarding Jesse Ventura's victory: For a third-party candidate to win big-time, it takes someone with huge name recognition that will attract lots of free media attention.

So . . . is there any possibility of running Clint Eastwood as the next LP presidential candidate? He's libertarian, he has experience in politics, and his movie characterizations have given him a terrific reputation (better than Ronald Reagan's) as a righter of wrongs.

— **BRADLEY BOBBS**
Van Nuys, California

Misinformation

In *LP News* [January 1999], Mr. John Semmens wrote an article about non-government solutions to global warming that was so fraught with misinformation that it reinforces the public stereotype of Libertarians.

I am not an environmentalist or tree hugger. I've worked many years in the scuba diving industry. I started diving 20 years ago and I have logged hundreds of dives in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Because of my close relationship with the environment, I have seen first-hand the damage we cause. I have seen garbage piling up on the bottoms of our lakes, rivers, and oceans. Most of the dumping and damage I see is caused by people who share Mr. Semmens' attitude that the environment isn't that bad, and one more empty beer can won't make a difference.

First, I would like to clear up some of the rhetoric in the article. The temperature of the earth has varied considerably through its history, but humans have only been here a short time — and it is only a quiescent, stable environment that allowed us to survive. A global mean temperature change of only a few

degrees would turn the earth into a desert or a frozen wasteland.

The idea that global warming could counter some upcoming ice age is ludicrous. Global warming occurs on the scale of centuries; ice ages occur on the scale of tens of thousands of years.

The most unscientific statements are in regard to Mr. Semmens' plans to absorb car-

bon dioxide. His idea to pollute the oceans with fertilizer in the hopes that the plant life would absorb excess carbon dioxide reveals a basic misunderstanding of the environment. The fact is that for decades agricultural fertilizers have been washing down the Mississippi and into the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, every year a vast dead zone forms in the Gulf as algae blooms choke all other life forms in the area, devastating shrimping and fishing.

We may resent the government telling us what we can or can't do on our private property

with our private automobile. But when you dump the used oil from that auto onto your private property, each quart of that oil renders over a hundred gallons of ground water undrinkable. When you contaminate community water you are infringing on my right to clean water. Don't I have the same right to clean air?

We as Libertarians see the evil of big government. But, when we automatically condemn government functions in favor of militant rhetoric we lose support with the public, a public that wants to believe in us but

is frightened by the possibility that we could make things worse.

I'm asking all Libertarians to consider that there are some issues which are bigger than the individual, which require national management. Let us boil this issue down and come up with an approach that is as succinct, truthful, and powerful as our stand on personal liberty.

The government is charged with protecting our fundamental rights; the right to clean air and water is one of those rights.

— **JOHN STANTON**
Houston, Texas

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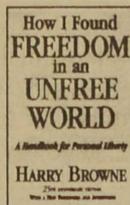
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■ April 10-11, 1999

Minnesota LP Convention, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tom Palmer (Cato Institute), and Gene Cisewski (Liberty Council). For information, call (800) 788-2660. E-mail: Southpaw2@aol.com.

■ April 10-11, 1999

Alabama LP Convention, Ramada Inn East, Montgomery. Speakers TBA. For information, call Charles Russell at (334) 279-6750 or (888) 838-1775. E-mail: libertyckr@earthlink.net.

■ April 17, 1999

Massachusetts LP Convention, Renaissance Bedford Hotel, Bedford. Speakers include Gene Burns (radio talk show host), Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), and Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru). For information, call Elaine Berchin at (508) 634-9684. E-mail: eberchin@la-ma.org.

■ April 23-25, 1999

New York LP Convention, Best Western MacArthur Hotel, Medford (Long Island). Speakers include Robert James Bidinotto (Director of Special Projects, Objectivist Institute) and Michael Tanner (Cato Institute). For information, call Jeff Russell at (518) 371-3641. E-mail: JRuss1776@aol.com.

■ April 23-25, 1999

North Carolina LP Convention, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Asheville. Speakers include Mark Tuniewicz (Libertarian National Committee Treasurer). For information, call Candi Copas at (919) 644-1594. E-mail: convention@lpnc.org. Website: <http://convention.lpnc.org>.

■ April 23-25, 1999

Colorado LP Convention, Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Nathaniel Branden (author of *Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand*), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Barbara Goushaw. For information, call (303) 639-5530. E-mail: BetteRose@aol.com.

■ April 24-25, 1999

Arizona LP Convention, Sheraton Tucson Hotel, Tucson. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation) and Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist). For information, contact Fran or Kent Van Cleave: (602) 248-8583. E-mail: kvc@compuserve.com.

■ May 1, 1999

Iowa LP Convention, Ft. Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines. Speakers include Steve Givot (LNC member) and Bob Smith (LP of Minnesota). For information, contact Mark Nelson at (319) 344-0013. E-mail: DMNmkval@aol.com.

■ May 1-2, 1999

Michigan LP Convention. Location and speakers TBA. For information, contact Pam Collins at (248) 542-6885. E-mail: HRHCollins@aol.com.

■ May 14-16, 1999

Kansas LP & Missouri LP Convention, Embassy Suites Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, Kansas. Speakers include Ron Paul (1988 LP presidential candidate), Daniel Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), Bob Corkins (Kansas Public Policy Institute), and Tim Slagle (Libertarian comedian). For more information, contact Hugh Emerson at hemerson@trib.net. Website: www.geocities.com/~molp/convflyer.pdf.

The 'problem' of urban sprawl

Continued from Page 22

Each, in fact, is best at delivering the quality of life most desired by those who choose it.

My life growing up in a small town could have come straight from a Norman Rockwell painting. In the mornings as I walked to school, I passed a steady stream of men carrying lunch buckets heading for a paper mill. Doors went unlocked and kids roamed the neighborhood almost unsupervised. During summer evenings we would play kick-the-can in the street while our parents sat on the front porch and talked with neighbors.

Requires a city

At the age of 18, I decided work in a paper mill wasn't for me, so I headed to the Big City to attend college, get my first real job, and start a career in the think tank business. It may take a village to raise a child, but it requires a city to give birth to a school such as the University of Chicago and organizations such as The Heartland Institute.

By the age of 34, I had grown to dislike the noise, crime, and grit of city living. Diane and I left the city to those young enough or old enough to sleep through the nighttime police sirens, car alarms, and mysterious loud noises (gun shots? cars?). In suburbia we found peace, quiet, and access to amenities, such as tennis courts and walking paths, that we now value more than good restaurants and night clubs.

I am struck by how my

"WE SHOULD NOT assume that giving government more authority is the solution."

lifestyle choices have determined the places I've lived, and how those places, in turn, have served the peculiar needs of each lifestyle. Why, I wonder, would anyone want to deny people the same choices I was able to make?

The growth management debate may sound arcane or of little interest to most people, but in fact it touches on an enormous range of public policies affecting virtually every aspect of our lives. Growth management policies aim to influence where we live and work, how we travel from place to place, whether elected officials or unelected bureaucrats will decide important planning issues, and the character of our local communities.

At the heart of the debate

over growth management is not whether growth should be managed, but how it is managed and by whom. In most parts of the country, the path of growth was traditionally left to the private sector. Individual home buyers, developers, and business executives drove most decisions about where new neighborhoods would be born and a business would be located. Elected local officials participated in the process by using zoning powers, their control over the public infrastructure, and their power of eminent domain.

We should not assume that giving government more authority is the solution to whatever problems are produced by urban expansion. Indeed, the problems often attributed to unplanned growth are more often the result of prevailing government policies that distort market processes that would otherwise lead to win-win situations.

■ Joseph L. Bast is president of the Heartland Institute. This article first appeared in the September/October 1998 issue of the Heartland Institute's Intellectual Ammunition.

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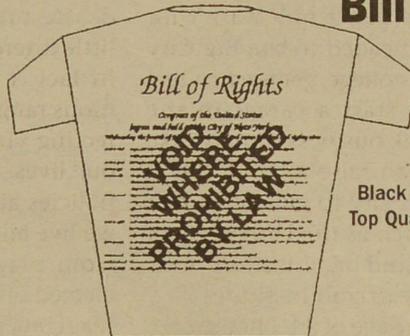
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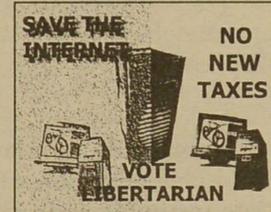
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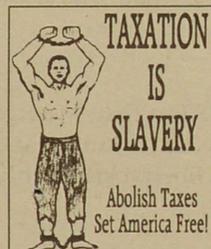
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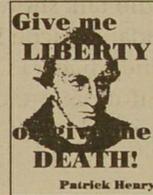
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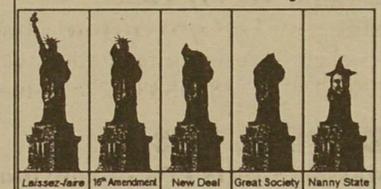
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UPCOMING EVENTS

■ March 6, 1999

Delaware LP Convention, Wayside Inn, Smyrna. Speakers include Daniel Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Janice Presser (State Chair, LP of New Jersey), Mark Tuniewicz (National LP Treasurer), and Jack Dalton & Jim Larsen (elected Delaware Libertarians). For information, call (302) 834-3596. E-mail: bradct@delanet.com. Website: www.de.lp.org.

■ March 13-14, 1999

1999 Freedom Rally, Sheraton Hotel, Newport Beach, California. Sponsored by Freedom Law School and the LP of Orange County. Speakers include Shelley Davis (author *Unbridled Power*), former Congressman George Hansen, and Bill Conklin (tax expert). For information, call (714) 838-2896.

■ March 13-14, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Dallas, Texas. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director) and Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

■ March 19-21, 1999

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Pittsburgh Holiday Inn Airport, Pittsburgh. Speakers include Julian Heiklen (campus marijuana "smoke outs"), Anita Hoge (Save Our Schools), Felix Livingston, Ph.D (FEE), Dimitri Vassilaros (talk radio host), and Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government). For information, contact Chuck Gilch at (724) 935-4937. E-mail: ckg@usaor.net.

■ March 20-21, 1999

Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar, Columbia, South Carolina. Speakers include Bill Winter (LP Communications Director) and Michael Cloud (campaign expert). For information/registration, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

■ March 27, 1999

New Jersey LP Convention, National Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, East Windsor. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tanya Kangas (NORML), Elizabeth Macrón (Libertarian attorney), and Michael Buoncristiano. For information: chair@njlp.org. Website: www.lp.njlp.org.

■ March 27, 1999

Rally for Citizen Safety, Daley Plaza, Chicago. A public rally to "protest Mayor Daley's assault on the Second Amendment" and to promote passage of a concealed carry law. Sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Chicago. For information call: (312) 409-2223. Website: www.concealcarry.org.

■ March 28, 1999

Nebraska LP Convention, Four Points Hotel, Omaha. Events include election of officers and activity planning session. For information, contact Andrew Sullivan at thetroubles@hotmail.com. Website: www.geocities.com/Heartland/Pointe/50Q2/latest.html.

■ For additional Upcoming Events, see page 26.

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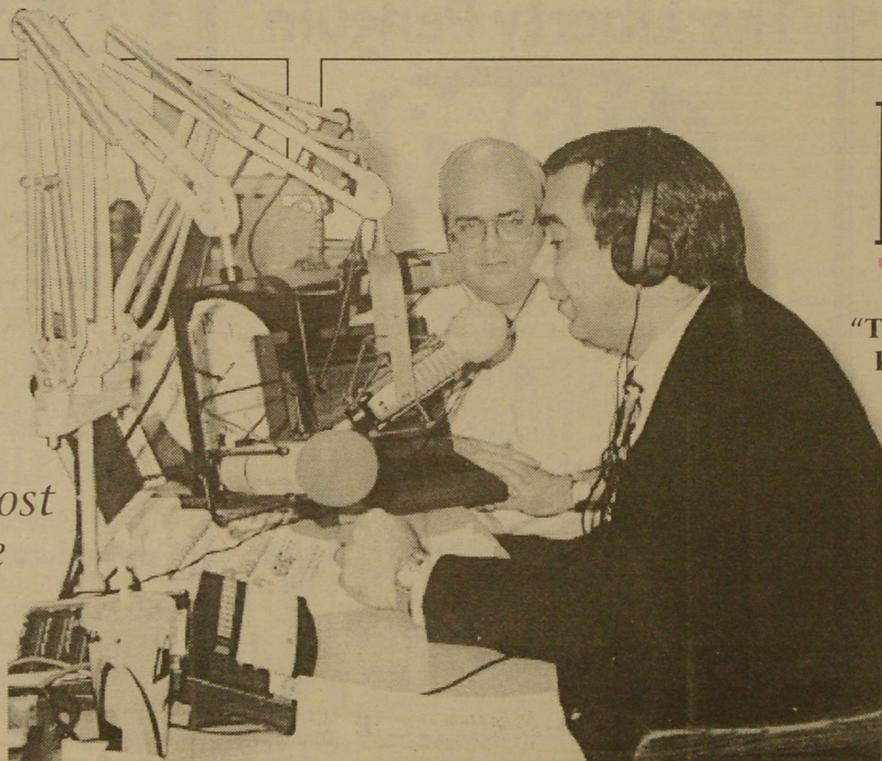
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INSIDE

■ **PAGE 1** LP launches new anti-Know Your Customer website

■ **PAGE 1** Syndicated host Gary Nolan joins the Libertarian Party

■ **PAGE 14** Celebrities who are libertarian



FIRST WORD

"Those familiar with the Libertarian Party know that at its heart is [a] rugged individualist philosophy. Libertarians seek to preserve individual freedom, much like Democrats, and they oppose government intrusion, much like Republicans."
— *The Garden City Telegram* (Kansas) October 10, 1998

"Libertarians [have] some interesting and fresh ideas. It is a political party on the rise."
— RICHARD GRIMES
Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia), November 6, 1998