

# The Connecticut Libertarian

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The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

## Tax Protest Successful Despite Police Interference

by Courtenay Hough

STAMFORD—Stamford Libertarians held their Tax Protest Day on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> fell on a Sunday and the 16<sup>th</sup> was a holiday in Massachusetts where the forms are sent (Andover), so Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> became the day the Post Office remained open until midnight.

We had our largest turnout ever with 6 people (including myself) “manning the barricades.” The protest was delayed (it was scheduled from 6-9 p.m.) as the police tried to decide whether or not to let us protest without a permit. I stated I was unaware that a permit was required and showed one officer my copy of the Constitution; specifically the First Amendment which states that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech...or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Apparently this carried some weight because the three officers called in a sergeant who in turn got on the phone with a lieutenant at headquarters. We were then told that we had to stay off of Federal property but that we could protest on the sidewalk which was adjacent to the entrance/exit of the parking lot. Because we stood our ground, the police met us halfway. Next year we will have permits to ensure that we can be on Federal property to distribute literature.

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## 2001 Vote Results

by Dawn Barry

HARTFORD—Last month, you read LPCT’s positions on a number of proposed bills. Now that the 2001 regular legislative session has ended, here’s a summary of how the legislators handled these selected bills. To view the entire Bill History, go to [www.cga.state.ct.us](http://www.cga.state.ct.us) and type in the bill number.

### Bills Opposed by LPCT

HB05127 An Act Studying the Feasibility of a bridge or tunnel to Long Island. No action taken.

HB05067 An Act Concerning The Use of Cellular Telephones While Driving. 3/12/01 Public Hearing, died in committee.

HB05301 An Act Requiring Health Insurers to Cover Prostate Cancer Screening. No action.

HB05300 An Act Extending Health Insurance Coverage For Children Under Age Twenty-one. Motion failed.

HB05298 An Act Requiring Insurance Coverage For Hearing Aids. No action.

HB05299 An Act Requiring Health Insurance to Cover Treatment for Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction. No action.

HB05380 An Act Concerning Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform. No action.

HB05278 An Act Ensuring the Availability of Captioned Movies to Hearing-Impaired Persons. No action.

HB05030 An Act Concerning Occupational License Fees. No action.

### Bills Supported by the LPCT

HB05810 An Act Concerning Ballot Access For Minor Parties. Status: 2/9/01 Public Hearing, died in committee.

HB05141 An Act Allowing Voluntary Compliance with Prevailing Wage. No action.

SB01384 An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Stops. 4/9/01 Public Hearing, died in committee.

HB05137 An Act Concerning Political Campaign Contributions. No action.

HB05290 An Act Concerning the Definition of “Affordable Housing”. No action.

HB05195 An Act Establishing a Lemon Law for New Computers. Died.

HB05105 An Act Concerning Public Video Surveillance. No action.

## School Choice: Saving the Children

by Ned Vare

It is sometimes said by public school supporters that if some children are taken out of the system to go to other schools, the public schools will deteriorate. And so, the thinking goes, parents have a “duty to society” to keep their kids in the public schools, even though those schools have already deteriorated almost beyond recognition. How absurd that the government schools think of the children as serving the schools’ or society’s needs instead of the other way around.

It’s not the school system that needs saving or even reforming. It’s the children who need to escape from the failing government schools and be allowed to attend successful schools, without the penalty of paying twice – once with taxes and again for tuition.

The real question is, do we want the best education we can get for our children, or do we merely want to maintain the government school monopoly, no matter how bad it gets or how much it costs? Contrary to the argument that’s sometimes heard, saving some children from bad schools does not doom the rest of them; it simply saves some. And that is obviously better, by whatever means is available, than saving none.

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### **School Choice**

As long as schools are under the control of politicians and government bureaucrats and hand-in-hand with the teachers' unions, the education will not be "healthy" because politics kills education. Government incentives prevent the needed reforms and innovations. Think of all the instruction in government schools that's mandated by politicians because of pressure from various interest groups and campaign contributors. For example, students are taught about the Holocaust, but not WWII. Political indoctrination takes up about half of every school day at the expense of what most parents expect from the schools – core academics.

What's wrong is that the government is not a proper agency for education. It thrives on its own failure – the worse it does, the more money politicians give it (Hartford's schools are a perfect example). While state-run schools fail at high cost, private parent-directed and funded schools succeed at half the per-student cost. The problem is that government schools do not seek the same things that parents seek for their children. Government wants compliant predictable workers and soldiers ("human resources"); parents want independent thinking creative individuals. The two goals are not compatible.

Parents need the freedom to choose where their children will go to school—and that choice must include private and religious schools. No child should be forced to attend a bad school, and no one should be forced to pay taxes to prop up a failing system.

Government is the problem in education, just as it is in other areas, and the private sector is the solution. State-run schools will not reform themselves, ever. Education, and the money that pays for it, needs to be put back into the hands of parents and removed from politics. End the failure. End the monopoly. End the corruption. End the blame game. Save the children.

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### **Tax Protest**

As it was, about 75 cars rolled down their windows and took our literature. It consisted of sets of Sheldon Richman's booklet, "Let's Abolish the Income Tax" (available from the Foundation for Economic Education) with a bogus million dollar bill and the state party's brochure tucked inside of it.

We received dozens of "thumbs up" signs from the late filers as they were exiting the parking lot, and many people honked their horns as well. The latter was a bit ironic as the first officers to approach me that evening said that if I used my sign which stated, "Honk if You Hate Taxes," I would be arrested for inciting a breach a breach of peace. Given that warning and the fact that there was a residence adjacent to the Post Office, I put the sign away.

I sent out four press releases to local media about the protest and two responded. WSTC/WNLK taped an interview with me the morning of the protest. Stamford's newspaper, The Advocate, had a reporter covering the entire affair; he interviewed Mike Pretnar and me. Wednesday's paper featured four paragraphs in a larger story and had a prominent photograph of Zaro Zinn holding his sign "Born Free, Taxed to Death." Guy Smith, Ken Gordon, and Dan Gummer rounded out our party.

All in all I'll say it was a modest success, modest only because we were unable to collect names.

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**Meeting Notice:** The SCC will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members welcome. Agenda:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- Current Business
  - Details of 2001 Convention
- New Business

**Directions:** From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South). From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South). From East, I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt 5 & 15 South). From West, I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South). *Route 5 & 15 South:* Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hgwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.