

SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN PARTY



"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles..."

The Declaration of Independence

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 4TH

July 4th is a day which most persons associate with patriotic festivities and recreational events. Its real significance is often forgotten. July 4th commemorates the signing in 1776 of the most well-known libertarian document -- The Declaration of Independence. This was the first formal pronouncement by an organized body of persons of the right to government by choice rather than by imposition. Libertarians regard it with a great deal of respect, for it asserts the natural rights of each individual. While American society in the late 18th century was far from being totally libertarian (black persons, for example, were enslaved), The Declaration of Independence has been a source of inspiration for freedom throughout the years.

1983 marks the first year for the Libertarian Party July 4th Celebration, which will become an annual event. State LPs throughout the nation will celebrate the 4th. The S.C.L.P. version of this celebration will be an informal picnic at Dick Winchell's house on Lake Murray. All interested persons, including children, are invited. Jan Morris, who is in charge of planning this event, will start things off by giving a rousing patriotic and libertarian speech at 12:30. Following the speech, the picnic will begin. Dick Winchell will provide ice, lemonade, tea, plates, and a small grill. Persons who attend should bring food and any additional beverages. Bathing suits are welcome.

Persons who wish to receive a map should call Jan Morris (796-3161) before June 29. Persons who get lost on the way can call 781-5427.

STATE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

At the 1983 Convention on June 11, members of the S.C.L.P. nominated a candidate (see page 2), adopted a revised Platform, heard a speech by a candidate for Chairman of the national L.P., learned how to manage a campaign, and chose delegates to the 1983 National Convention.

Although debate on the Platform was originally expected to last about an hour, it ended up occupying most of the morning session and part of the afternoon session. Platform Committee Chairman Steven Vandervelde presented the Committee's proposal for a revised Platform. Numerous amendments were offered and voted upon, some passing and some being defeated. Many of the proposed amendments were quite controversial, especially several that were supported by newcomers to the party. Long-time S.C.L.P. activists felt that many of these proposals were anti-libertarian, and there was much debate. However, the resulting version of the Platform turned out to be acceptable to most persons present. The revised Platform has new planks on Constitutional Government, Balanced Budget, Monopolies and Utilities, Transportation, Natural Resources, Crime Prevention, The Rights of Children, and Secession.

The highlight of the Convention was a speech by Paul Grant, who is one of two candidates for Chairman of the national L.P. He was the Libertarian Party candidate for governor of Colorado in 1982, and he has served on the National Committee for three years. According to Grant, state L.P. fundraising efforts must become innovative, and state parties must avoid running to the national L.P. asking for handouts. If elected,

(continued on page 2)

VANDERVELDE IS RUNNING FOR STATE HOUSE

At the June 11 Convention, the S.C.L.P. nominated party Vice-Chairman Steven Vandervelde to run for the newly-vacated State House Seat 72 in Columbia. Incumbent Democrat Bill Campbell resigned his seat in order to become a Family Court Judge in Richland County. Steve's wife Shelly ran against Campbell and Republican Jane Farley in the 1982 election and received 2% of the vote. According to Vandervelde, "I believe I have a better chance of winning this race than a regular election. With no competing elections, people will pay more attention to a third party."

When asked what he would do if elected, Vandervelde said, "The first thing would be to introduce a bill to abolish the state income tax. Then I would work to reduce the state's role in education, to abolish property taxes, and to return the public schools to private ownership. In addition, I would promote deregulation at a state and local level and work for prison reform. The first step in prison reform would be to work for the release of all prisoners convicted of a victimless crime, and then other nonviolent prisoners should be released and required to pay restitution to their victims."

Vandervelde expressed his wish that all campaign contributions be made to the S.C.L.P. earmarked for his campaign. At present, the date of the election is not certain, but it will most likely be in September.

CONVENTION

(continued from page 1)

Grant said that he would spearhead efforts by the national party to help state fundraising efforts and ballot drives. In discussing the prospects for a strong Libertarian showing in the 1984 presidential race, he said, "...if we run a strong campaign effort, we're going to get a lot more votes than Ed Clark got in 1980, and we can do it with a lot less money than Clark spent in 1980."

S.C.L.P. member William Pike of Pauline, who has had much experience in managing campaigns, gave a presentation on the basics of campaign management. According to Pike, "There's got to be a complete commitment. If you're going to run in '84, you need to start your campaign in '83." He emphasized the need for candidates to fit the issues to the job and to build a strong organizational network to raise money. He stressed that candidates must get to know the voters personally, must find out which problems concern them the most, and must propose libertarian solutions to these problems. In addition, he suggested that all campaign contributions go into the party treasury, with 50% being rebated to the candidates.

The following persons were selected as delegates to the Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention to be held August 29 - September 5 in New York City:

Marshall Danenburg	Jan Morris
Tom Waldenfels	David Morris
Steven Kreisman	Daniel Hoert
Steven Davis	

Heidi Davis and Michael Carruth were chosen as alternates.

CHANGES IN BLUE LAWS DON'T GO FAR ENOUGH

Libertarians in South Carolina applaud the recent legislative measures changing the state's Blue Laws, but there are still many restrictions on Sunday trade.

The changes allow athletic events, arts and crafts shows, and funerals on Sunday, and add hosiery, underwear, paper products, cameras, and light bulbs to the list of items that can be sold on Sunday. Also permitted are the sale of swimming, fishing, and boating equipment, and the exhibition of non-commercial real property and mobile homes. Grocery store owners will now be allowed to operate with more than three employees on Sunday.

However, the sale of most clothing, hardware, lumber, jewelry, appliances, automobiles, and furniture is still prohibited. Alcohol still cannot be sold on Sunday except in private clubs. Local governments must grant permission for athletic events, and arts and crafts shows can only display the original work of artists who are present.

The Blue Laws discriminate against individuals who celebrate the Sabbath on days other than Sunday. They make life difficult for Jewish persons, Seventh-Day Adventists, and others whose religious practices do not conform to those of the majority. Libertarians feel that the government has no business prohibiting freedom of trade among individuals on Sunday or any other day. The only proper role of government is the protection of the natural rights of each individual to life, liberty, and property. The Blue Laws violate the religious and economic freedom of South Carolinians. Libertarians look forward to the day when they exist no more.

Two events were cancelled at the last minute. Neither Fred Miller nor Shawn Daniels (a member of Gene Burns' campaign staff) were able to come speak. Gene Burns has temporarily scaled down his campaign efforts, although he is still the leading contender for the presidential nomination.

At the Convention, Dean Allen announced his interest in seeking the S.C.L.P. nomination for the U. S. Senate to oppose Strom Thurmond in 1984, and several other party members indicated an interest in running for office next year.

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE LAND!

Marshall Danenburg was Chairman of the S.C.L.P. in 1980. He is now Kershaw County Chairman.

S.C.L.P. CONVENTION -

A PERSONAL COMMENT

by Marshall Danenburg

Some good news and some bad news came out of the most recent state convention. The good news is that a number of new people attended. The bad news is that a number of new people attended. The good part is obvious. The bad part obviously needs explaining.

Most of them were in attendance just in order to take part in the voting concerning the Platform revisions. They were not there in order to find out more about the libertarian philosophy or the party that espouses it, but rather to try to make sure that the Platform reflected the views of one disgruntled Platform Committee member. Of course, that tactic is legal - just as legal as the collection of income tax and just as ethical. Both are instances where force and fraud are used rather than reason and persuasion.

I've waited for eight years for someone to pack a convention. It was no less sickening for all that anticipation. Such a blatantly political act by one who claims to be a libertarian is a sure way to be branded an opportunist.

To those who were there for the above-mentioned purpose: Come to other meetings. Most people find me to be a good listener. I think you will, too. There are no two people who think alike, and that wonderful diversity is the strength and hope of us all. The interaction of your ideas and mine are bound to help us all. I didn't start out thinking that private roads were possible, and I still have misgivings about abortion, though fewer and fewer. The important issue for those of us who value liberty is how to resist the further accumulation of government power and how to trim the leviathan down to size. That shared concern should be a firm bond; the point at which we stop trimming is a matter for discussion along the way.

FACT OR FICTION?

- 1) The state income tax is constitutional.
- 2) Inheritance taxes hurt poor and middle-class persons more than they hurt the rich.
- 3) Free immigration would harm the U. S. economy.

1) FICTION

When the state legislature re-wrote the tax section of the S. C. Constitution in 1976, the provision for a progressive income tax was left out! Voters approved the change in 1976, and the revised version went into effect in 1977. Jan Morris, who has researched the matter, poses the following questions: "Does anybody really believe that the state can legally impose a tax which the state constitution doesn't provide for? If the S. C. Constitution is not binding on the legislature, what is?"

2) FACT

The persons who are hardest hit by inheritance taxes are persons who inherit family-owned farms and small businesses. This unjust tax often forces families to sell family farms and small businesses because they cannot afford to pay inheritance taxes on them. As a result, they are deprived of their livelihoods and have to go searching for other jobs. One of the best welfare measures the government could enact would be to repeal the inheritance tax.

3) FICTION

Opponents of immigration insist that new immigrants damage the U. S. economically. In fact, immigrants bestow many benefits to natives, as described by Julian Simon in the May, 1983 issue of Inquiry.

Immigration restrictions are intended to "protect us", just like tariffs and trade quotas, but, like trade barriers, they protect us from benefits. No research has shown noticeable unemployment caused by immigrants. Potential immigrants have considerable awareness of labor-market conditions and tend not to come to the U. S. if their skills are in small demand. They immigrate to places where they are needed. They also consume goods and thereby increase the demand for labor across the range of occupations.

On the average, immigrants pay more taxes and receive less in welfare payments than do natives. They tend to be very productive and have a high level of education. The average immigrant worker comes to have higher earnings than the average American worker after a few years. These higher earnings are a signal that the immigrants are producing what the natives want.

Immigration restrictions violate the rights of native Americans who wish to voluntarily trade their money for the labor of non-natives. These restrictions are harmful and should be abolished.

Editorial

FRONTLINES SURVEY RESULTS

Frontlines, a libertarian newsletter published by the Reason Foundation, has finished the first comprehensive survey of libertarian opinion. 672 individuals sent in survey forms, which were published in the April issue of the South Carolina Libertarian and in 19 other state LP newsletters, as well as in Frontlines. The results of the survey are summarized on the facing page.

According to the survey, libertarians agree strongly on the issues of abortion, drugs, conscription, and nuclear power. Other issues are more controversial. In looking over the survey form, one becomes aware that some of the issues are worded in a manner that makes it difficult to determine which choice is the most libertarian.

The defense topics are especially confusing. None of the defense topics deal with the following two questions:

- 1) What role should the government play in defense?
- 2) How should defense be funded?

These are important issues which need to be discussed. My view is that whenever there is a government monopoly in the provision of any service, there is no incentive to provide that service efficiently. As long as the government has a monopoly in the provision of defense, there will be massive inefficiency and waste. However, it is difficult to come up with viable alternatives. I would like to see someone come up with a way for the free market to operate in national defense, but so far nobody has described in detail how this could occur.

Six of the transition measures proved popular among libertarians. One of those that was not very popular was Peter Ferrara's widely-publicized proposal of mandatory private retirement accounts and paying off existing Social Security obligations with general revenues (taxes).

In interpreting the survey results, it is important to realize that some respondents may not have been full-fledged libertarians, but it is a safe bet that the majority were. The LP doesn't insist on strict ideological purity among interested persons, especially on controversial issues. Many libertarians fail to agree with the radical libertarian position on one or more issues. As a radical libertarian, I hope that more and more persons find themselves enthusiastically embracing the ideal of Liberty with all of its implications.

- David Morris

David F. Nolan is the President of Project Liberty, 1401 Cherokee St., Denver, Colorado 80204. This organization is dedicated to the goal of repealing the federal income tax, abolishing the draft, and re-instituting sound money.

WAR & TAXES, TAXES & WAR

by David F. Nolan

The time for bold initiative is here. Those who love liberty and oppose its mortal enemy, the State, can no longer shrink from taking the hard line.

If we are to significantly cut the role of government in our lives, we must address the fundamental roots of State Power. (See Box)

The battle cry for '82 and '84 must be "Sound Money, No Draft, No Income Tax, NO WAR!" The first three will assure the fourth; strike at the roots and the branch will wither.

A government which can't conscript anyone, or take their earnings by force (taxation) or fraud (creation of worthless currency) isn't going to be much of an imposition; it simply won't have the resources to be much of a threat!

Such a government will, of necessity, have to confine its activities almost exclusively to maintaining a prudent defense...by which we

don't mean global adventurism and international handouts.

If we can elect a Congress, in 1984, with a solid majority of members unshakeably committed to a policy of "no draft, no income tax, and a sound currency", that will be the biggest step toward a lasting peace that this country could make.

For without those coercive tools, the government simply couldn't commandeer enough resources to get us into a major war! (Enough to protect us from enemy attack, but not enough to wage "2 1/2 wars" overseas and build another layer of nuclear weapons!)

The peace movement and the anti-tax movement are natural allies; it is only by deceit and manipulation that the power structure in this country has been able to keep them apart.

Let us join forces and go forward to victory!

THE ROOTS OF STATE POWER

Government (The State) derives virtually all of its power through its ability to seize the lives and property of individuals for its own purposes. The three principal tools it uses to this end are Conscription, Confiscation and Counterfeiting.

CONSCRIPTION: Compulsion into involuntary servitude to The State for "public" purposes — most commonly, war and civil construction projects.

CONFISCATION: Seizure of land and property through various devices — most commonly taxation and eminent domain.

COUNTERFEITING: "Watering down" the economic currency for the purpose of "skimming the profits". Done by debasing precious-metal coins with base metals in earlier times; now done primarily by paperwork and electronic manipulation.

These three methods of robbing the people are the tools of tyranny. If we are to be free, they must go!

A SAD NOTE: The Reason Foundation recently announced that it will cease the publication of *Frontlines*, which had been losing money recently. For the past five years, this fine newsletter has played an important role in the development of the libertarian movement, and while there are now several good libertarian newsletters, *Frontlines* will definitely be missed.

frontlines

NATIONWIDE LIBERTARIAN SURVEY

(Note: Most figures are rounded off to the nearest percent, so totals under some categories do not equal 100%)

1. Abortion

- 10% Abortion is wrong and should be prohibited by government
- 65% Abortion is a private matter; government should neither regulate it nor subsidize it
- 13% Abortion is a private matter until that stage of fetal development when the fetus develops human-type brain waves
- 12% Abortion should be legal, and as long as the government pays for other medical services, it should pay for abortions as well

2. "Recreational" Drugs

- 73% All drugs should be decriminalized (i.e. penalties against use and sale removed)
- 8% "Soft" (i.e. nonaddictive) drugs should be decriminalized
- 19% All drugs should be legalized (i.e. regulated and taxed like tobacco and alcohol)

3. Children's Rights

- 28% Children have the same rights as adults and the laws should be changed to reflect this
- 19% Children are inherently dependent; present laws correctly take this into account
- 53% Children have rights that are not adequately protected by current law — but not the same rights as adults

4. Conscripton

- 82% Any form of conscription is a violation of rights
- 13% Conscription is unjustified except during wartime
- 5% Conscription is just a form of taxation and is a necessary evil under present circumstances

5. Nuclear Power

- 14% Nuclear power plants violate rights and should be closed down
- 77% Nuclear power should be neither regulated nor subsidized by government
- 9% Nuclear power is safe and economical; government R&D and liability limits are realistic measures to support this technology

6. Intelligence Agencies

- 38% The FBI and CIA are threats to liberty and should be abolished
- 6% The FBI and CIA are important and legitimate defenses against domestic and foreign threats to liberty and should be maintained essentially intact
- 56% Both the FBI and CIA have violated people's rights, but agencies of this sort are necessary; the agencies should be reformed, not abolished

7. Immigration

- 44% All restrictions on immigration should be abolished; we should have open borders
- 19% Immigration controls should only be lifted if noncitizens are made ineligible for welfare programs
- 14% Controls on immigration must remain until the United States achieves a free-market economy
- 23% Some limits on immigration are necessary and proper for any society

8. Government Debt

- 21% Government debts are illegitimate and should be repudiated
- 57% Government must honor existing obligations to its creditors, but should do so only by selling off assets
- 22% Government must honor its obligations to creditors, even if this requires use of tax funds

9. Nuclear Weapons

- 41% Nuclear weapons are immoral, per se, and their use can never be condoned
- 18% Nuclear weapons are completely legitimate; present arsenals should be maintained or expanded
- 41% Nuclear weapons should be used only against specific military targets; they should be made smaller and more accurate

10. Strategic Defense

- 24% The US should work to preserve stable mutual deterrence by not building ABM systems or engaging in civil defense
- 76% Mutual assured destruction is immoral; the US should build defenses against nuclear attack

11. Nuclear Disarmament

- 26% Arms limitation treaties have seldom worked; mutual disarmament is unrealistic
- 56% We should pursue disarmament negotiations, but strictly on a mutual basis
- 18% The United States should disarm unilaterally

12. Alliances

- 45% Military alliances violate libertarian principle; the US should therefore withdraw from all alliances
- 43% Military alliances are proper under some circumstances, but present US military alliances (NATO, Japan, etc.) are unwise and should be terminated
- 12% The United States must maintain its alliances and continue as leader of the free world

13. Foreign/Defense Policy

- 39% US defense forces should be restricted to US territory
- 55% US defense forces should operate in the oceans and outer space, as well as on US soil
- 6% US defense forces should be used to defend non-communist countries from communist attack

14. Transition Measures. For this question, please check off all of the proposals listed which you would support as transition steps toward a fully free-market society.

- 52% Education vouchers
- 62% Education tax credits
- 68% Balanced budget amendment
- 53% Flat-rate income tax
- 74% Contracting out of public services to private firms
- 76% User fees instead of taxes to pay for public services
- 36% Mandatory private retirement accounts (IRAs) and paying off Social Security's existing obligations with general revenues
- 29% Negative income tax to replace all present welfare
- 34% Housing vouchers for the poor instead of construction and rent subsidies

15. What is your:

- Age 38 (average)
- Sex Male-84.5%, Female-15.5%
- Ethnic group White-96%, Hispanic-1%, Black-0%, Other-3%
- Household income \$35,318 (average)
- Highest level of formal education
 - PhD or equiv.-8.5%, Masters or equiv.-27%, Bachelors or equiv.-17.5%, Junior college degree or equiv.-17.5%, High school or less-8%
- Marital status
 - Married-48.5%, Single-40%, Divorced-6%, Widowed-3%, Cohabiting-2%
- Occupation varied
- Religion
 - None-33%, Protestant-25%, Atheist-14%, Catholic-5%, Jewish-5%, Agnostic-5%, other-13%

16. How many years have you identified yourself as a libertarian? 3.7 (average)

17. What was your ideological position before you became a libertarian?

- 44% Conservative
- 21% Liberal
- 14% Middle-of-Road
- 21% Other ()

18. As a libertarian, do you consider yourself an advocate of:

- 26% Anarchism/anarchocapitalism
- 74% Limited government

19. In general, do you favor a strategy of:

- 62% Gradualism
- 38% Abolitionism

20. Which of the following activities are you personally willing to engage in (check all that apply):

- 66% Participation in LP politics
- 71% Educational activities
- 16% Participation in Republican or Democratic politics
- 33% Civil disobedience

21. What one writer or thinker has most influenced your development as a libertarian?

- 3% Harry Browne
- 1% Andrew Galambos
- 5% Ludwig von Mises
- 3% F.A. Hayek
- 5% Robert Ringer
- 5% Robert Heinlein
- 6% Ed Clark
- 30% Ayn Rand
- 10% Murray Rothbard
- 1% Robert Le Fevre
- 13% Milton Friedman
- 2% Roger MacBride
- 16% Other (all others less than 1%)

22. Who is your first choice for 1984 LP presidential candidate?

- Ed Clark-29%, Ron Paul-18%, Gene Burns-10%, Dick Randolph-6%, none-5%, Murray Rothbard-4%, Milton Friedman-4%, others-25%

(Note: Most of the survey forms were sent in before Gene Burns announced his candidacy)

23. Are there any positions that you recognize as based on libertarian principle, but which you personally find difficult to accept? If so, what?

No discernible patterns

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*July 4, Lake Murray - JULY 4th CELEBRATION
(see page 1).*

*August 8, West Columbia - Midlands Area
S.C.L.P. meeting, 7:30 P.M. at
Quincy's on the Charleston High-
way. All interested persons are
welcome.*

*August 29 - September 5, New York City -
Libertarian Party Presidential
Nominating Convention.*

*September 18, Columbia - S.C.L.P. state
meeting, 2:00 P.M. at Western
Steer on St. Andrews Rd. at I-26.*

*October 3, West Columbia - Midlands Area
S.C.L.P. meeting, 7:30 P.M. at
Quincy's on the Charleston High-
way. At this meeting, plans for
the booth at the State Fair will
be finalized. Dick Winchell will
be in charge of scheduling volun-
teers.*

*October 14 - 23, Columbia - South Carolina
State Fair. We will need volun-
teers for our booth in the Cantey
Building.*

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, chal-
lenge the cult of the omnipotent state and de-
fend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to
exercise sole dominion over their own lives,
and have the right to live in whatever manner
they choose, so long as they do not forcibly in-
terfere with the equal right of others to live in
whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly
operated on the opposite principle, that the
State has the right to dispose of the lives of in-
dividuals and the fruits of their labor. Even
within the United States, all political parties
other than our own grant to government the
right to regulate the lives of individuals and
seize the fruits of their labor without their
consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any gov-
ernment to do these things, and hold that where
governments exist, they must not violate the
rights of any individual; namely, (1) the right to
life - accordingly we support prohibition of
the initiation of physical force against others;
(2) the right to liberty of speech and action -
accordingly we oppose all attempts by govern-
ment to abridge the freedom of speech and
press, as well as government censorship in any
form; and (3) the right to property - accord-
ingly we oppose all government interference
with private property, such as confiscation, na-
tionalization, and eminent domain, and sup-
port the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud,
and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not
violate individual rights, we oppose all inter-
ference by government in the areas of voluntary
and contractual relations among individuals.
People should not be forced to sacrifice their
lives and property for the benefit of others.
They should be left free by government to deal
with one another as free traders, and the re-
sultant economic system, the only one com-
patible with the protection of individual rights,
is the free market.

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