



THE CAPITAL DISTRICT LIBERTARIAN

JULY 1992

JUNE 9th MEETING MINUTES

Scot Silber opened the meeting by reading Lynn Hyland's letter of resignation. While Ms. Hyland was with us she made us money. This skill will be missed. John Munteer with a nomination from Jeff and a unanimous vote has become our new treasurer.

GETTING ON THE BALLOT

It's that season folks. If you wish to vote for a Libertarian for president you must get him on the ballot. We do this by getting a god awful lot of signatures. For those who do not relate well to technical terms our senatorial candidate needs 20000 valid signatures our presidential candidate 15,000. We need people to gather signatures. If we have your name we are going to ask for help. Jeff Russell, Scott Silber, Kevin Delaney, or John Munteer will be seeking a commitment for help.

Never done this sort of thing before... Who cares? You will be shown. We have people who will see that you can do the job well. If you can not petition send cash. We can get the job done with some help. Help we need. Be it bodies or cash we will use it to do what we can to see the growth of a different world.

The petitioning period this summer has been moved back 9 days. Petitioning will begin on Thursday, July 16, and end on Thursday, August 27. (These are the likely dates; the official dates won't be decided until redistrict-

ing is final) Current estimates indicate that we will have just barely enough signatures if all volunteers deliver what they have promised. The state party is trying to raise \$5000 to pay petitioners to help put us over the top and ensure that we will have enough signatures to withstand a challenge.

HEMP RALLY

On Friday, June 12, there was a rally at the Capitol Building in support of legalized marijuana. The rally was organized by The Hemp Coalition of Albany. Several hundred people attended. Congratulations and thanks to Terry Phelan for doing a great job as organizer and "MC".

Dottie-Lou Brokaw, vice-chair of the Libertarian Party of New York, was one of the speakers to address the crowd. She, along with several other speakers, pointed out the tragic costs of prohibition, high murder rates and other crimes and wasted lives of all the young people killed or in jail. Dottie reminded us that it was mothers and children marching in protest that helped end alcohol prohibition.

Jeff Russell, Scot Silber, Kevin Delaney, and John Munteer handed out copies of the "world's smallest political quiz" and collected the names of interested individuals. Forty names were collected but half of them were not from this area (lots of Dead Heads in town).

112 people took "The World's Smallest Political Quiz" at the rally. The results were gratifying, but not unexpected. The only surprising thing was the five individuals who fell in the Authoritarian sector. Two were Conservatives, 17 Centrists, 21 Liberals, and 67 LIBERTARIANS.

Quote for the day: "Support organized crime; it protects us from the government."

HEALTH INSURANCE "REFORM"

The New York State Legislature has just passed a "Health Insurance Reform" bill. Although the details aren't published yet; the intention is clear. Governor Cuomo would like New York to be the first state to have "state provided" health care. This law removes most of the ability of private insurance carriers to rate small group policies (50 or fewer members) for health risks. Insurers will have to accept all groups, and rates will have to be approved by the Insurance Commissioner

The action is in response to complaints from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield that the for profit insurers are "cherry-picking" by offering lower rates to the better risk groups. The commercial carriers claim that Blue Cross (which has 70-80% of the market) is simply poorly managed.

This libertarian's opinion is that using good judgement is important in a free society. Insurance rates are a form of discrimination; hopefully the good kind. Discriminating used to mean making wise choices; now it's more often used in its' negative sense. I believe there are valid reasons for companies to rate risks, to reward good health and penalize poor health. Not all illnesses are the fault of the sick, but insurance companies should not be forced to be

charitable. Just like all government attempts to provide charity and redistribute wealth, state health insurance will not produce the desired results.

The best plans I've seen make payment for health care a tax deductible item to individuals rather than a nontaxable employee benefit. The amount of insurance coverage and the resultant cost would be clear and wiser choices could be made.

John Munteer

Letter to the Editor

Albany Times Union 6/24/92

To the editor:

"State run Off Track Betting in New York takes in nearly \$1 billion a year and barely just breaks even. Estimates indicate that next year it may actually lose money.

Recent demonstrators in Albany demanded that the state take over the health care business. The politicians in this state can't even run OTB properly. Why on earth would anyone want to put them in charge of something as important as health care? "

Jeffery Russell

Fred Barney's appraisal :

I hold a different opinion. The function of government control in our economy is to reward the few at the expense of the many. Thus OTB performs admirably.

OTB is an agency whose purpose is to collect taxes that the population would not willingly pay. Thus by design the agency is exploitive. Complaining about OTB amounts to nothing more than the assertion that those who are supposed to use bettors for the general good are also exploiting the nonbetting public. The problem is not with the management of OTB but the concept.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

While much has been uttered about sexual harassment little has been understood. For example consider the public discussion associated with the Clarence Thomas confirmation. Hill stated that Thomas talked dirty to her and years after the "incidents" she was still distressed. Neither Hill nor the public considered the possibility that her distress was her fault.

In point of fact words are not chemicals. Once heard they do not exert a predetermined effect on the mind. Hill chose to take offense. She chose to carry and nurse this insult so that years later it would be as fresh as the day she first chose to take offense. Physic pain is something that you inflict upon yourself. The cure for such pain can not come from another. Hill's poor mental health is a private matter.

What is a public matter in this area is the sanctity of contracts. Suppose that I hire you to manage my property. We agree that your task is to make as much money, for me, as possible. For this service you are paid a salary and a percentage of the accounting profits. In your role as manager you spend \$30,000 to find a suitable subordinate.

This subordinate accepts the terms of the employment contract. Harassment enters the picture when the employer fails to live up to the agreed upon contract. Suppose that you break your contract with your subordinate by insisting that lunch include; well I leave that to your imagination. Your subordinate being a Libertarian at heart demands a new contract that reflects the value of services that you had expected and now demand. Since you are violating your contract with me you say no to a truthful employment contract with your subordinate. Since you have violated your contract with your subordinate he decides that employ-

ment in my organization is a bad investment of his time.

Because you have failed to behave as agreed upon I am poorer. You have used my property for your purposes. That is, in this case, a felony. Your subordinate also finds his financial well being the worse for dealing with you. Again we are speaking of a felony. This matter is at its heart a violation of criminal law.

In the above example the manager on his own victimized the property owner and the employee. In my opinion the victims should be able to choose either cash compensation or felony prosecution. The accepted notion that the employ has a claim against the owner because the manager violated is contract with the owner is absurd.



PICNIC

The CDLP annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 25th at John Munteer's house in Altamont. The festivities will begin at 12 noon and proceed until dark. There will be food, drinks, songs, swimming, volleyball and a general good time. Bring salads and desserts. This is a fund-raiser; donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children; under 6 free.

The location is Box 309A1 Bond Rd Guilderland. From the end of the Northway (RT 87) take Western Ave (RT 20) West about 13 miles. Turn Left on RT 397 (watch for signs to Altamont Orchards; just past large power lines) for 1/4 mile. Turn Right on Settles Hill Rd (1st right) for approx 2 miles. Turn Left on Westfall Rd (2nd left) for 1/4 mile. Turn Right on Bond Rd (1st right) to end.

Call 518 861 5009 if you get lost.

Annual Membership in the Capital District Chapter is \$12
To join both the State and Local Party the fee is \$21

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at
The Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in downtown Albany.

Letters to the Editor or article are appreciated and
can be sent to Fred Barney

9 Farnsworth - Apt. 9
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Phone Numbers

Local Chapter: **518 399 1293**

State Party: **212 477 2515**

National Party: **800 682 1776**

Marrou for President Campaign: **202 546 6095**

Segal for Senate Campaign: **914 471 0506**

Petioning Volunteers: **518 233 1344/518 458 5886**

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