

Minnesota Libertarian

The official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Mary Ruwart to address MN Libertarians

1997 Convention Schedule	
Registration	8-9 am
Party business: Platform, endorsements...	9-Noon
Lunch	Noon-1 pm
Chris Wright	1-2 pm
Todd Indehar	2-3 pm
MN Rep. Kevin Knight	3-4 pm
Dr. Mary Ruwart	4-5 pm
Social with cash bar	6-8 pm

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota will hold its 1997 State Convention on Saturday April 19 at the Hopkins House at 1501 Highway 7, Hopkins, Minnesota.

Morning party business will include the election of a new Executive Committee, platform changes and candidate endorsements. MN Representative Tom Workman will give a short address to the convention in the late morning if his schedule permits.

(The business session is free to any Libertarian Party member.)

After lunch our featured afternoon speakers will include Chris Wright speaking on medical marijuana and states' rights.

Todd Indehar, President of Conservationists With Common Sense will be speaking about property rights and the Northern Minnesota experience

MN Rep. Kevin Knight, MN House District 40-B, Bloomington, will tell us what it is like being a legislator in Minnesota and answering questioning about why Republicans in the Minnesota Legislature do what they do.



Photo courtesy of the Kalamazoo Gazette

Dr. Mary Ruwart

Our special guest speaker this year is Dr. Mary Ruwart, speaking on "My Sister's Journey to Dr. Kevorkian." Dr. Ruwart is a former Senior Scientist at a major pharmaceutical

firm in the midwestern United States and a former Assistant Professor of Surgery at St. Louis University Medical School. Presently she is teaching scientists how to communicate in oral and written form. An influential member of her local community, Dr. Ruwart has worked extensively with the disadvantaged through rehabilitation of low income housing. She was a contender for the Libertarian Vice-Presidential nomination in 1992 and a member of the Libertarian Platform Committee in 1983. She has been called the "conscience

of the Party" for her *Unity Through Community* campaigns over the last five years. Her scientific, political, and community activities have been profiled in several prestigious biographical works, including *American Men and Women of Science*, *Who's Who of Women*, *International Leaders in Achievement*, and *Community Leaders of America*.

(For more convention news please turn to page 7-10. Please register today. Registration form on the back of newsletter on page 16.)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Next executive committee meeting
For exact date and details, call Caryn Cohen at (612) 377-9614

Outreach and Cable access
Meetings are the first Monday of each month, for location contact Eric Johnson at 612 436-8183

Monthly member telephoning
Ken Poe at 612 893-2398

Benton County Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA) chapter Fundraiser "Fool's Nite Out" Saturday April 5, 1997 8 PM-1 AM At the East side VFW in St. Cloud. LPMN will have a table.

Right to Carry Rally
Friday April 11, 1997 at the Capitol steps in St. Paul

Annual Income Tax Protst at the main Minneapolis Post Office
Monday April 15, 1997

Libertarian Party of Minnesota State Convention
Saturday April 19, 1997 Hopkins House Hopkins, MN

Freedom Day on the State Capitol Mall in St. Paul
10 AM-2 PM May 1, 1997 612 477-6796

Libertarian Party of Minnesota
The official newsletter
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Reaching out, reaching in

A review of *HEALING OUR WORLD: The Other Piece of the Puzzle*

by Mary J. Ruwart
(1992 Sunstar Press, Kalamazoo, MI)

Reviewed by
Bob Kuhn

Since this book appeared in 1992, it has been billed as an important "outreach" work, particularly to Christians, New Agers, Humanists and other who are not inspired by the "cold logic" that moves many libertarians.

Like many libertarians, I move outreach works to the bottom of the reading list on the assumption that I have heard it all before.

Perhaps I have heard all of these outreach arguments before, but rarely so eloquently. Mary Ruwart's book should be described as "Warm Logic!"

There are two basic approaches to arguing for a free society — from *Rights* and from *Practicality: We have the right (from nature) to freedom, or freedom works to provide the*

greatest good for the greatest number.

Those who hold the first view also generally hold the second, but argue, of course, that even if freedom didn't provide the greatest good for the greatest number, it is still our right as individuals.

Besides, they will add, arguing for freedom from the practical or utilitarian viewpoint is dangerous, because it leaves open the possibility that if it were proved (or believed) that some form of coercion were necessary to achieve the greatest good, then we would have to go along with it, because that is our stated goal, not freedom itself.

Ruwart's approach is basically that Freedom, or, more specifically, Non-aggression works, to achieve the goals of peace, prosperity and happiness.

The argument from Rights is inherent in much of what she says, but the main thrust is why our Coercive/Statist society is creating more problems than it solves, and how a society of mutual respect and laissez-faire will achieve the goals

that the "liberals" claim to want. This raises the question, if the liberals' methods aren't working, can we believe that their stated goals really are the desired end result?

Ruwart's book is full of examples of the failure of intervention and the success of the free market, from the War on Drugs to Foreign Policy. On the subject of Endangered Species, for instance, she writes

"Some conservationists see a global government as a way to enforce worldwide bans on hunting endangered species, such as elephants and rhinos. . . The guns of government are used to prevent homesteading of wild herds in much the same way as they are used to prevent homesteading of land. . . For example, elephant hunting has been banned in Kenya. In 1989, these animals numbered only 19,000, down from 65,000 in 1979. On the other hand, in Zimbabwe, homesteading claims of natives to elephants on their land have been respected. Elephant products can be legally sold. Naturally, the

natives protect their valuable elephants from poachers. The natives raise as many elephants as possible so they can sponsor safaris and sell elephant ivory, hide and meat. As a result, the elephant population has increased from 30,000 to 43,000 over the past ten years."

"People will protect the environment when they own it and profit from it."

"We never worry about cows and horses becoming extinct. They are plentiful because we own them and profit from their use. We have motivation to make sure they propagate. Ownership encourages effective stewardship of wildlife, just as it encourages protection of the land. Although it happens from time to time, few people are foolish enough to kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

"Now, endangered species are not high on every libertarian's priority list, but the point is that freedom and property rights will achieve the desired goal for both those who care and

those who don't.

"Those of us who argue for freedom from the perspective of Rights sometimes dismiss the utilitarian arguments, or prefer not to use them, because of some view that Freedom isn't good or guaranteed if it is won for the wrong reasons."

But there are two important points to consider: Freedom is freedom and if we can convince others to stop interfering in our lives for whatever reason, we are ahead. Most people believe it is acceptable to commit a small crime to prevent a larger wrong, and they believe, however misguidedly, that some coercion is either necessary or useful in achieving a peaceful society. If they can be shown through facts and logic that they are, in fact, not attaining their stated goals, then we are ahead. This book provides plenty of both.

The other point is that those of us who argue from Rights should think about the benefits of a society where people don't just leave each other alone, but cooperate and lend each other a helping

hand from time to time. David Kelley, in his brilliant monograph *UNRUGGED INDIVIDUALISM* (Institute for Objectivist Studies, 1996) makes just such a point. It is in our self interest to be nice to other people.

In the sense that few of the arguments for freedom found here are new, this is an outreach book, it would pay Libertarians to read *Healing Our World* for ammunition in attempting to reach out. In another sense, we should look at this as an "Inreach" book, because it raises the issue, "Is it only those of a spiritual inclination who are concerned with the well being of everyone, not just themselves?" In looking at this book, too, we might find clues in answering that age-old question, "Why aren't there more women in the Libertarian Party?"

As capital-L Libertarians, we should not have a litmus test, admitting only those who believe in freedom for the "right" reasons. Neither should we have a litmus test for those we try to convince.

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Our goal is to distribute the newsletter at the beginning of the even months. Because we depend on volunteers to submit articles it may come out later. Your submissions are much appreciated.

Charles Test **Larry Hubner**
Managing Editor Senior Editor
Production Pro Tem Test Studios - South Minneapolis

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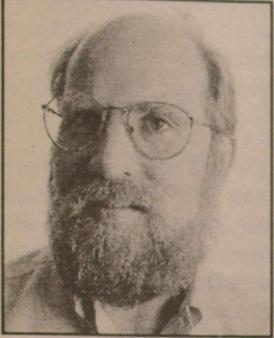
Please submit ads and articles (ideally) on a 3.5" computer disk in ASCII text, Quark, MacWrite, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works, WordPerfect, or WriteNow. The Minnesota Libertarian is produced on a Macintosh computer. Articles typed on paper are acceptable too. Article submissions should be sent to:
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Articles do not necessarily imply official Libertarian Party positions. Articles may be reprinted if the writer and this newsletter are credited.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARTY CHAIR

Spring is almost here and many events are popping up that are requesting libertarian presence. The Benton County chapter of the Fully Informed Jury Association is having an April 5 fund-raiser in St. Cloud, public dialogues



Charles Test

in Minneapolis start March 17, a Right to Carry Rally April 11 at the Capitol, the LPMN income tax protest April 15 at the main Minneapolis Post Office, the LPMN state convention Saturday April 19, at the Hopkins House, and Freedom Day May 1 at the Capitol are our most immediate outreach events. Our April 19 convention will have some party business to attend to. We have platform items to discuss and a new Executive Committee to elect. If you are willing and able to commit several hours a week to the Libertarian Party we have a few vacancies on the executive committee. Please consider running.

On March 8-9 four of us ventured to Washington, DC for a western US LP leadership conference put on by the national Libertarian Party office staff. It was a very valuable trip. We learned how the national staff can help us and what projects they are up to. They learned from us what informa-

tion and services we need from them, like a good quality introductory libertarian cable access TV video series. This meeting was just what we needed to get us all pointed in the same direction to membership growth.

Membership growth is what we need to be able to compete with the older parties. A proven technique for finding new members is by hosting informal libertarian pot-luck get-to-know each other parties. A LPMN member decides to host a together at their home, backyard, local park or public hall. Local members and prospects are invited to the party. This offers everyone a chance to get to know their local libertarians in an informal and friendly environment. Detailed instructions are available upon request. This is a proven method of growing a party in membership and activity. Please consider hosting a get together of your own today.

We also have a new **Liberty Lobbyist**, Forrest Wilkinson, who will be advancing the libertarian point of view in St. Paul. He started to work the week of March 12. He is an invaluable tool for helping us present the libertarian point of view to the politicians, bureaucrats and press at the Capitol in St. Paul. Forrest is well acquainted with the ins and outs of how things work. Forrest has been trying to explain science and common sense to the folks in St. Paul and the MN Department of Natural Resources for a few years as part of the River Warren Research Committee. They have

been trying convince law-makers that gravity, geology and erosion are the main reasons why the Minnesota River is not as clean as a swimming pool. The state wants to blame farmers for farm run-off so they can regulate the use of the farmer's land. One of the RWRC buttons reads "Truth is an alternative form of reality." Forrest will be identifying bills for the LPMN to support or oppose, following bills through the process, speaking to legislators and testifying at committee meetings and generally being a lone voice of "Don't try to mend it, it's broke, repeal it." The **Liberty Lobbyist** project is funded by designated contributions. We need your contribution today to continue to bring your point of view before our elected officials. Please consider making a special contribution to support his work.

The LPMN also has a new ad featuring the world's smallest political quiz. Please give us a call if you would like to sponsor its' placement in your local newspaper.

Please check throughout this issue of the *Minnesota Libertarian* for all sorts of ways you can promote the cause of freedom in your community.

And don't forget you can check-off \$5 on your MN income tax form to go to the Libertarian Party. You can also get up to \$50/year back from the state for contributing \$50 to the LPMN using the MN political contribution rebate program.

Help needed:

Hosts for informal libertarian pot-luck get-to-know each other parties. Detailed instructions upon request. This is a proven method of growing party membership and activity. Please consider hosting a get together in your home, backyard, local park or public hall, today.

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Harry Browne's vote total gets boosted to 485,120

WASHINGTON, DC —

The vote total for Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne has jumped by more than 14,000 votes — thanks mostly to late absentee ballots.

The final, comprehensive 1996 presidential vote total for Browne is 485,120 votes, reports Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News.

That represents a significant increase over the 471,000-vote figure



Harry Browne

which had been publicized immediately after the election, when only 99% of the vote had been counted.

The new votes came "predominately from Oregon and Washington state," said Winger. "They have such a huge proportion of voters who vote by mail that

they don't [count] the bulk of their votes for a couple of weeks."

In all, 49 states ended up showing some change in Browne's vote totals, said Winger, either from absentee ballots or from vote-counting mistakes that were finally corrected.

The extra votes solidified Browne's position as the second most successful presidential candidate in party history, behind only 1980 presidential candidate Ed Clark. The higher vote total also means that Browne posted a 66.7% increase over the party's 1992 totals, when LP candidate Andre Marrou won 291,000 votes.

Flowers by Catherine

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Frostbite Falls, MN land-use conference attracts science

By
Colin Wilkinson and
Charles Test

During the weekend of January 11, 1997, Charles Test, Forrest Wilkinson, and Colin Wilkinson traveled to International Falls to attend a leadership conference titled: Understanding the Rural Land Use Revolution.

Over 200 people attended one of the most intense and fact laden events of this kind I have been to. Much different from the usual Minnesota Government sponsored Dog and Pony show where three to five bureaucrats from different organizations tell you the same thing, often using the same sentences and mostly translating to: "BAD CITIZENS! BAD, BAD! QUIT THAT!"

The issue that brought these folks together was state and federal policy regarding the Minnesota North Woods, aka The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness, Voyageur's National Park, Superior National Forest, Chippewa National Forest, Grand Portage Indian Reservation & National Monument, Nett Lake Indian Reservation, Red Lake Indian Reservation, White Lake Indian Reservation, Lake Agassiz National Wildlife Area, Floodwood Game Refuge, etc. etc. plus Minnesota state forests, state parks, and state scientific and natural areas too numerous to list here.

A series of speakers presented many viewpoints with emphasis on the rights of private citizens. Dr. Rollin Dennistoun, an agriculture economist with the Agricultural Commodity Coalition, spoke on how the over regulation of agriculture hurts the poor and hungry of the USA and the rest of the world.

Harry Wiant Jr. President of the Society of American Foresters, spoke on 'Who Will Stand Up for

Forestry?' Harry is a good example of the generation gap that has developed in the Natural Sciences and especially inside the government bureaucracies that claim jurisdiction over the lands and waters of the USA. Many, though not all, younger members of these disciplines have abandoned viewpoints based on the traditions of scientific research, constitutional government and free market economics. The new hires believe the best management of the forests is a "hands-off" approach, do nothing, let nature take its course. The science-based forest managers believe this attitude and policy is disastrous to the forests and humans' ability to manage healthy forests.

Bill Brice of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Minerals talked of the huge mineral potential of northern Minnesota. He pointed out the huge mineral resources that will be locked up if all the proposed restrictive regulations on land-use are put into place.

Paula Davidson, chair of Northern Lights Tourism Alliance, spoke about the third leg of the northern Minnesota economy, tourism. Tourism, timber and mining are all vital to the area, and any plans proposed had better take that fact into account.

Todd Indehar, President of Conservationists with Common Sense, explained how and why his citizens group came about. He outlined the political/legal wrangling about the BWCA and the current controversy about the truck portages, the compromise of 1978 and the current mediation process. Todd will be a featured speaker at the Libertarian Party of Minnesota Convention, Saturday April 19, at the Hopkins House.

Tom Worth, Chair of the Boundary Waters Treaty Coalition covered the histo-

ry and meaning of the international treaties governing this international border. In a nutshell, the name Boundary Waters refers to the river border of the USA and Canada. The Webster-Ashburton treaty of 1842 gave the right of free passage of these Boundary Waters to citizens of both countries.

President and chief legal officer of the Mountain States Legal Foundation reported on situations similar to Northern Minnesota's that are all over the country. All these cases have national ramifications and the Wise Use Movement is studying the Minnesota disputes with great interest. Perry has argued land

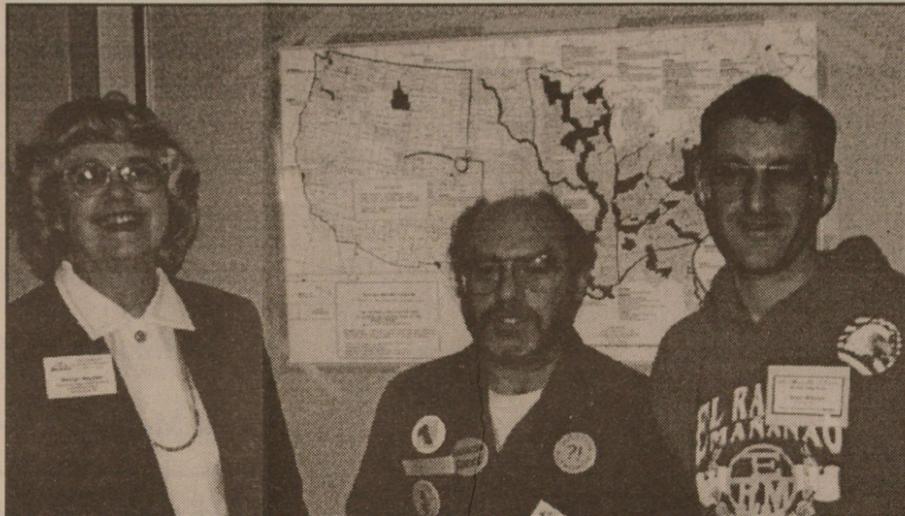
simply presented direct quotes from these blueprints of control. Basically, "one size fits all" limits on the developed world would prevent millions from improving their lot in life. The less-developed world would get a different set of rules. The reports are very anti-human activity in general. Earth first!

lazy data gathering. Staff would go out once and take samples from a few places and "guess-a-mate" everything else. Policy would be based on faulty information. Facts have to be gathered from many places, over years before things can be understood. Botkin told the story of learning from an old local fisherman about the weather and fish population relationship of a local river system. The previous "experts" had never bothered to ask this gold mine of local facts and figures.

"It's not what you don't know, it's what you think you know that is not true." Real science = Real knowledge.

A bunch of state and federal employees were invited to enlighten us, including two cabinet assistant secretaries and the commissioner of Minnesota DNR. They did not attend. Bill Brice, Director of the Minerals Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was the highest ranking state official at the conference. Unfortunately, while Mr. Brice knew his minerals he was unable to answer some basic MN DNR policy questions about Minnesota rural land-use.

The attendees, many who were beleaguered local city, township and county officials overcome by the arbitrary and conflicting mandates from the state and federal governments, were relieved to learn that there is intellectual and personal support to bring common sense to rural land-use policies. Many expressed faith in the ability of local groups to resolve issues, yet the same folks told stories of locally agreed-to solutions being vetoed by the national offices of the larger interest groups involved. In spite of such frustrations we all left the conference with many new facts, ideas and friends, and ready to continue on with the next round of the fight.



Marilyn Hayman, Colin and Forrest Wilkinson

(They didn't call it the Voyager's Highway for nothing.) Try that today and see what happens. Chad Laduc, a lawyer defending someone who did just that, outlined the progress of the case. The case involved a Canadian tour boat entering restricted American wilderness water.

Marilyn Hayman, the heroic president of Citizens for Responsible Zoning and Landowners Rights, then addressed us. She told the audience of her successful effort in organizing thousands of people who live by the Mississippi River to fight the Department of Interior's Heritage Corridor Plan. This plan will take power and control over the land-use decisions of EVERY county that abuts the Mississippi River. No one is alone and we all are in danger of losing our right to own real estate. The Stillwater bridge controversy is just the beginning of the locking up of America's rivers.

Perry Pendley,

rights freedom cases in front of the Supreme Court

Barry Hodge, legal counsel with the Defenders of Property Rights, spoke to us by phone from Washington, D.C. He summarized the situation at the capitol, high-lighting trends in the courts and in Congress. He told us that the property rights and local land-use control planks of the Republican "Contract With America" have stalled in Congress.

Michael Coffman, President of Environmental Perspectives in Maine, told us about spiriting a draft copy of the international bio-diversity program out of Switzerland. The United Nation environmental bureaucrats were denying such a paper existed. In the nick of time he was able to get copies to the United States Senate to prevent them from voting on the treaty. After the Senators read about the planned restrictions on human development, they quickly tabled the matter. Time after time, Mr. Coffman

Humans last.

Alston Chase, noted philosopher and author of *Playing God in Yellowstone* and *In a Dark Wood*, titled his speech "Ecosystems Management, is it Science or Politics?" He has studied the wording of Ecosystems Management texts and noted that all the words are "value laden with circular definitions." He pointed out the impossibility of obtaining a healthy eco-system. "Healthy for who? The malarial mosquito or your family? What's good for one species is going to be bad for some other species." Who gets to decide who wins and who loses?

Daniel Botkin, President of the Center for the Study of the Environment, talked about 'A New Ecology for the 21st Century' He argued that the health = stability concept of the Greens is bad ecology. He told stories of public policy being enforced on individuals based on very sloppy and

Leadership conference finds success and friendly unity

By Colin Wilkinson

On March 8, Charles Test, Eric Johnson, Rich Osness and Colin Wilkinson of the Minnesota LP traveled to Washington DC,

We were attending a meeting of state activists called to identify ways the national headquarters can support state and local party activities. Just as important was the opportunity for these state members to meet each other and to share ideas and stories. For most of us it was a rare opportunity to meet

Libertarian activists from across America outside the bi-annual National Conventions. For many of us this opportunity was well worth the cost of the trip.

There were two sessions on two weekends. Minnesota arrived for the second session that was made up of the western states. Minnesota by its central location could have fit in either group. Next time it may be worth it to send someone to both halves.

The seminar sessions focused on the



Rich Osness, Colin Wilkinson, Charles Test

means and methods of building party strength. We toured the national offices and learned what facilities they had to offer and we met the national staff, a talented and motivated group with ideas and ambition. The key activities covered in the sessions were member recruitment and fundraising. Many good solid methods of event organizing, fund raising and recruitment were outlined and discussed. The State members added their ideas and experiences. The result of this is that

HQ will soon be producing and distributing handbooks with precise instructions "recipes" for the often daunting task of building state and local strength. These leadership conferences show that the Libertarian National Committee and staff have been listening to the state activists and are acting. Minnesota members should act on these "recipes" for success. Let's use our state convention as a kick-off for cooking up these recipes for success.

Declaration on Global Climate Change

This is a statement issued and signed by approximately 150 of the world's most eminent climatologists, as a result of an international conference on the Greenhouse Controversy, held in Leipzig, Germany, November 9-10, 1995. HERE ARE TWO NUMBERS IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT THE SPONSORS DIRECTLY AND GET CERTIFIABLE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION:

(1) Europäische Akademie fuer Umweltfragen, fax 011-49-7071-72939

(2) The Science & Environmental Policy Project in Fairfax, VA, fax (703)352-7535.

THE LEIPZIG DECLARATION

As scientists, we — along with our fellow citizens — are intensely interested in the possibility that human activities may affect the global climate; indeed, land clearing and urban growth have been changing local climates for centuries. Historically, climate has always been a factor in human affairs — with warmer periods, such as the medieval "climate optimum" playing an important role in economic expansion and in the welfare of nations that depend primarily on agriculture. For these reasons we must always remain sensitive to activities that could affect future climate.

Attention has recently been focused on the increasing emission of "greenhouse" gases into the atmosphere. International discussions by political leaders are currently underway that could constrain energy use and mandate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Although we understand the motivation to eliminate what are perceived to be the driving forces behind a potential climate change, we believe this approach may be dangerously simplistic. Based on the evidence available to us, we cannot subscribe to the so-called "scientific consensus" that envisages climate catastrophes and advocates hasty action.

As the debate unfolds, it has become increasingly clear that — contrary to conventional wisdom — there does not exist today a general scientific con-

sensus about the importance of greenhouse warming from rising levels of carbon dioxide. On the contrary, most scientists now accept the fact that actual observations from earth satellites show no climate warming whatsoever. And to match this fact, the mathematical climate models are becoming more realistic and are forecasting temperature increases that are only 30 percent, or even less, of what was considered the "best" value only four years ago.

We consider the Global Climate Treaty concluded in Rio De Janiero in the 1992 "Earth Summit" to be unrealistic; its goal is stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gases, which requires that fuel use be cut by 60-80 percent worldwide! Energy is essential for all economic growth, and fossil fuels provide today's principal global energy source. In a world in which poverty is the greatest social pollutant, any restriction on energy use that inhibits economic growth should be viewed with caution. For this reason, we consider "carbon taxes" and other drastic control policies — lacking credible support from the underlying science — to be ill-advised, premature, wrought with economic danger, and likely to be counterproductive.

(A partial list of the institutions represented by the signers of the Leipzig Declaration: Climatologists and Meteorologists from Penn State, Johns Hopkins, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Arizona State, New Mexico State, Florida State, Oxford, Univ. of London, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Livermore National Laboratory, Univ. of Stockholm, Univ. of Virginia, Cornell, National Climate Center (Asheville, NC), Univ. of Connecticut, Univ. of Vienna, Stanford, Tubingen, Univ. of Berlin, Univ. of Oklahoma, Univ. of Wisconsin, Illinois Inst. of Technology, Univ. of Brno (Czech Republic), Scripps Institute of Oceanography (La Jolla, CA), Colorado State, Rice Univ., Univ. of Hawaii, Univ. of Illinois, SUNY-Albany, Univ. of Jena (Germany), Rockefeller Univ., Max Planck Institute (Munich), Sechonoc Institute (Moscow), and the former director of the National Hurricane Center.

We Don't Need the EPA and The MPCA

By Rich Osness

Our environment would actually be cleaner and safer with less government intervention. To someone who makes their living running other people's lives and businesses this may seem like an outrageous statement. To those of us who are tired of being forced to do asinine things by the government it is a truth that is only too obvious.

The example with which I am most familiar is my own business, a small professional photo lab, one of the first in Minnesota to be regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. A photo lab produces the same types of waste that most offices and homes produce with one exception. Processing photographic film and paper results in a waste chemical that is rich in silver, a heavy metal.

Federal and Minnesota regulations consider all heavy metals to be hazardous. Thus, we are regulated as a generator of hazardous waste.

To remove most of the silver from the waste solutions we first use a process that actually recovers silver in a form and quantity that more than pays for the process. We would do this without regulation. This still leaves too much silver in the waste solution for Federal and state standards. We then follow up with a system that removes most of the remaining silver by replacing it with iron, an unregulated metal. This part of the process does not recover enough silver to pay for itself. We would not do this if we were not forced to do so. This process unnecessarily increases our cost of doing business and drives up our prices and reduces our profits. This results in us being able to provide fewer

jobs and at lower pay than we would otherwise. Our customers are forced to pay more for our products.

Your first thought might be that this is good. We are being forced to protect the environment. But wait. We are replacing the silver with iron. What about the iron? Although the iron in the waste solution is dilute enough that I suspect it is relatively harmless, it may be more harmful than the silver.

No study has ever found the type of silver present in spent photographic solutions to be harmful to plant or animal life. In fact, numerous studies have proven beyond any doubt that the silver in photographic materials of all kinds is harmless and cannot become harmful under any circumstances when introduced into the natural environment. The photo industry does not wish to question the

potential harm of the iron in the treated waste because we might be forced to use even more expensive treatment methods. When you are dealing with government officials you are not dealing with rational people.

Even if the silver actually was harmful the EPA and MPCA provides no protection for the environment. We have been regulated for more than seven years. We have produced a lot of paperwork for the MPCA and paid a few fees. We have not seen an inspector from the MPCA. The only government agency that knows or cares what we are doing is our local sewage treatment plant. We contacted the management of our municipal sewage treatment plant when we first started our photo lab, more than a year before the MPCA contacted us. We could be doing anything. The EPA and MPCA would not know.

Does declaration overlook greatest danger of all time? Di-hydrogen Oxide

From Ken Nebel

REMEMBER THIS WHICH THE MEDIA IGNORES:

THE GREATEST GREENHOUSE GAS OF ALL IS DI-HYDROGEN OXIDE,

that killer substance which wipes out people right and left, is extremely dangerous in either vapor, liquid or solid form. Many deaths from di-hydrogen oxide occur every year. People not only die from overexposure, they also die from underexposure to it. It is also responsible for untold billions of dollars of property damage every year. The silent killer Di-hydrogen Oxide really should be monitored much more closely by the Government to save us all.

Di-hydrogen Oxide is also by far the greatest greenhouse gas in its vapor state.

(in case you didn't get it — dihydrogen oxide = water)

Carbon Dioxide, which all the fuss is about, makes up approximately 0.035% of the atmosphere. If CO2 concentrations double, it will rise all the way to 0.070% of the atmosphere. CO2 is also a

similarly small component of all the greenhouse gases. It is inconceivable that such a small thing could have such great effects.

CO2 is basic to life for plants. As CO2 levels increase, plants grow faster. Greenhouse operators often use unvented heaters on purpose, to increase the CO2 inside the greenhouse and speed up plant growth. As CO2 levels rise, plants also require less water. Thus, grasslands can become scrub, scrublands can become arid forest, arid forests become more productive. More plants growing more actively produce more oxygen and store more CO2. Crop yields increase exponentially.

With increased temperatures, there is also increased evaporation, which leads to more clouds, which leads to more sunlight being reflected back into space.

An excellent reference book is **FACTS NOT FEAR: A Parent's Guide to Teaching Children About the Environment** (actually good for teaching ourselves in the process!). Information about ordering the book can be found at <http://www.perc.org>.

If we did not have the false security of the EPA and the MPCA we would still not deliberately harm the environment. That is why we contacted our local officials before we put anything unusual down the sewer. We do not want to cause harm to others because they could sue us. A rather large insurance company that underwrites our liability insurance does not want us to harm anything or anyone either. They inspect our operation regularly. The only way we would deliberately harm the

environment would be if we knew we had the protection of the EPA or the MPCA. They told us to put the iron down the drain. We and our insurer are safe.

I have no doubt that this example in the photo industry is repeated thousands of times across the country. You are paying for the EPA and MPCA through higher taxes, higher prices for everything you buy and lower wages and less job security no matter where you work. You are actually less safe than you would be without them.

Libertarians urge: End corporate welfare for Ronald McDonald and his rich friends

WASHINGTON, DC —

Ronald McDonald is a welfare cheat.

Despite billions in profits last year, the fast-food chain represented by the popular clown mascot pocketed \$1.6 million in taxpayers' money in 1996 the Libertarian Party noted today.

"There's been a lot of talk about welfare for individuals, but not much about the billions in taxpayers' money raked in by wealthy corporations," said the party's chairman, Steve Dasbach. "Thanks to Republican and Democratic politicians, corporate welfare is alive and well-financed in America."

In Ronald McDonald's case, the U.S. Department

of Agriculture's Market Access Program funneled \$1.6 million in tax money to help the multibillion-dollar corporation advertise its Big Macs and other fast-food products to Europeans.

"Anyone with a McNugget of common sense should be outraged by programs like these," Dasbach said.

But the tide may be turning. A number of groups say they are committed to ending the subsidies, which total at least \$30 billion a year. At a news conference this week, at least a dozen such programs were targeted for termination.

"It's about time," said Dasbach. "Libertarians

have been urging Congress for 25 years to end these subsidies."

A bill sponsored by Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Russell Feingold (D-WI) would set up a nine-member study commission to target corporate welfare programs, and Congress would have four months to approve or reject the recommendations.

"But what's to study?" Dasbach asked. "Average Americans shouldn't be forced to fork over their hard-earned money to business executives. Let's topple these corporate fat cats from the welfare wagon right now."

Dasbach suggested some targets for immediate

action:

* Mickey Mouse behavior: The Walt Disney Corporation received \$300,000 in 1995 to "help perfect its fireworks displays," according to research by Common Cause.

* Boondoggle for billionaires: The Archer-Daniels Midland food company — which earned \$13 billion last year — has socked taxpayers with a bill for \$6 billion in ethanol subsidies over the last decade.

* The wine industry: After Gallo and other California wine makers poured \$750,000 into Democratic and Republican congressional campaigns,

politicians returned the favor: Gallo uncorked \$7 million in federal subsidies in 1994. The funding went to boost Gallo wine sales in Asia and Latin America under an "export promotion program," which has paid California wineries over \$50 million in the last 10 years.

* Putting the squeeze on taxpayers: Sunkist Corporation has received \$78 million from the Agriculture Department since 1976 to promote its oranges in Asia.

* A little log rolling: The Department of Forestry has handed lumber companies \$3 billion over five years in taxpayer-financed roads to

pave the way for logging projects.

* What's mined is yours: Exploiting the Department of Interior's Mining Law of 1872, gold and silver companies purchased public land last year containing \$15.3 billion in resources for a paltry \$9,400.

"Every taxpayer who learns about these programs wants them eliminated immediately," Dasbach said. "But politicians and their rich, corporate friends have fought to protect them. It's time to protect taxpayers instead — and shut the corporate welfare checkbook."

Abolish the government's "official" racial classifications,

WASHINGTON, DC —

Is your racial classification government approved?

If not, don't worry — federal bureaucrats are hard at work adding new categories to the "official" list of federally recognized races.

"Instead of working to end racism, federal bureaucrats are planning to increase their list of government-recognized racial classifications — so they can further divide this nation on racial grounds," warned Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach.

America's official racial categories were created by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1977

and laid out in a document named Statistical Directive 15. Hundreds of federal agencies use the classification when drafting regulations and laws that treat Americans according to their racial makeup.

Currently there are five official, government-approved racial classifications: white, black, American Indian/Eskimo, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic.

"These categories are eerily similar to the four racial categories used by the government of South Africa during Apartheid — white, black, colored, and Indian," said Dasbach. "And just like in South Africa, Americans can be

rejected for a home loan, lose the chance to attend the college of their choice, or even get fired from their job, depending on their racial classification."

For the last three years, the OMB has been weighing proposals to recognize more racial classifications — including Hawaiian, multiracial, Middle Easterner, Arab American, six different kinds of Latino, "Other," Creole, and Germanic.

"Various ethnic groups are vigorously lobbying to have their category added to the official list of races — because they know they'll hit the financial jackpot if they become a protected class under anti-discrimi-

nation laws," said Dasbach.

For example, the Federal Communications Commission awards 25% "bidding credits" to minority-owned companies, so a member of a government-approved minority would pay, for example, \$750,000 for a \$1 million radio station license, Dasbach said.

Other federal agencies use the racial data to arrange low-interest loans, to enforce quotas for college admissions — even to decide whom to hire and fire.

"Such racially based policies are one of the reasons why Americans have become less tolerant and more racially divided over the past

three decades," said Dasbach. "After all, how can politicians preach the virtues of non-discrimination when they use the power of government to enforce discrimination?"

And now, said Dasbach, federal bureaucrats are planning to deal with the acrimony that their policies have caused by adding more racial classifications, to allow them to more finely tune their discriminatory policies.

"But this will only move us farther away from the kind of inclusive, harmonious society that most decent Americans want," he said.

"Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed of the day when Americans would judge a man by the content of his character, rather than the color of his skin. The last thing Dr. King would have wanted is for Americans to be judged by the government-approved and federally categorized color of his skin," said Dasbach.

"It's time for America to choose another path. And the first step along our journey to a more tolerant, colorblind society is to do away with government systems that classify Americans by race."

Libertarian Party hands out first annual Modeerf Awards

WASHINGTON, DC —

And the losers are: Arizona, David Kessler, the Supreme Court, the Energy Department, San Francisco...and especially Bill Clinton and the 104th Congress.

Their booby prize: The Libertarian Party's first annual Modeerf Awards.

Their crime: Reducing freedom in 1996.

"Modeerf is freedom spelled backwards," explained Libertarian Party Director of Communications Bill Winter. "It's appropriate for these individuals and organizations, since they all moved freedom backwards in 1996. That's why we created this award: to expose and shame those who did the most to reduce liberty in America."

"After all, there are awards for so many trivial things — the best and worst dressed, best television shows, and so on — we decided America need-

ed an award to highlight the decay of our nation's most precious asset: freedom."

The Top Ten 1996 Modeerf Awards:

* The "Sorry About that Injection of Plutonium 239" Award: To the Department of Energy for paying \$4.8 million in taxpayers' money to the families of human "guinea pigs" who had been subjected to secret government experiments. "It's the government's equivalent of the Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes — you may ALREADY be a lucky winner...if we conducted ghoulish experiments on your relatives without their knowledge," said Winter.

* The "Of Course I Believe in the First Amendment, Except..." Award: To Congress and President Clinton, for passing the internet-censorship Communications Decency Act. "Nothing

warms a politician's heart like a little book burning — virtual or otherwise," noted Winter.

* The "Divorced from Reality" Award: To Arizona, which passed a law requiring divorcing parents to take a course on the impact of divorce on children. "What next — a law requiring single women to read The Rules?" asked Winter. "Perhaps we need a law requiring politicians to take a course about the impact of their silly, meddling laws."

* The "Some of My Best Friends Are Married" Award: To Congress and President Clinton, for passing the Defense of Marriage Act in June, which allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages. "Apparently it takes a village to raise a child — but the entire Congress to protect heterosexuality," said Winter.

* The "What's Yours Is Mine" Award: To the Supreme Court, which ruled in March that the government can seize the property of innocent people under asset forfeiture laws. "This ruling proved that the Supreme Court doesn't know their assets from a hole in the Bill of Rights — which is what they've created with this unconstitutional ruling," said Winter.

* The "Sometimes A Cigar Is Just A Cigar" Award: To San Francisco, for spending taxpayers' money on an advertising campaign that compares cigars to dog droppings, launched after politicians decided that too many young women were smoking cigars. "Something stinks here, and it's not cigars — it's politicians who think it's their job to nag adults about our bad habits," said Winter.

* The "Give War A

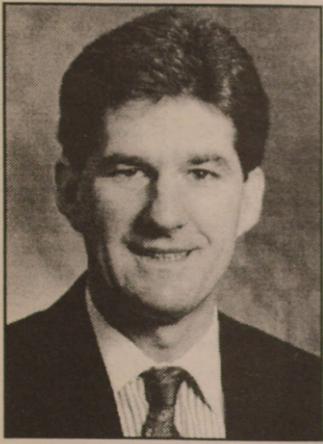
Chance" Award: To President Clinton for extending the stay of American troops in Bosnia for another year. "But give Clinton credit," said Winter. "In 1996, he resisted the urge to send American troops to numerous other international battlegrounds: Chechnya, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, and the divorce court of Charles and Diana."

* The "Get A Real Job" Award: To Congress and President Clinton, for increasing the minimum wage, thus destroying an estimated 200,000 entry-level jobs. "It was the ultimate job protection bill: protecting the jobs of politicians," noted Winter. "Now they can start handing out federal goodies — like welfare and job training programs — to those 200,000 voters they threw out of work."

* The "This Will Only Hurt for Six Years" Award: To David Kessler, FDA Commissioner, for another year of making Americans sick under the guise of keeping them healthy. "Doctor Kevorkian has nothing on Doctor Kessler — who has spent six years keeping life saving drugs off the market and trying to restrict health-enhancing vitamins. He's a regulation epidemic," said Winter.

* The "There's A Terrorist Under Your Bed" Award: To President Clinton and Congressional Republicans, for blaming the tragic crash of TWA Flight 800 on terrorists, and using it as an excuse to try to pass a "wish list" of unconstitutional anti-terrorist legislation. "This legislation proves that Americans have more to fear from politicians than they do from terrorists — especially non-existent ones," said Winter.

LP of MN convention speakers 1997



MN Rep. Kevin Knight

Minnesota Representative District 40-B Kevin Knight, 39, lives in Bloomington with his wife Bonnie and their three children Megan (11) Colson (8) Spencer (6). He is a member of Oxboro Church and a University of Arizona graduate (B.A.)

A certified financial planner by trade, Mr Knight is the publisher of Economic Newsletter, a member of the Bloomington Rotary, and is on the Governmental

Affairs Committee of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

Rep. Knight is in his third term as Minnesota House District 40-B representative. His other political activities also include: being a member of the Member, MN Senate District 40 Executive Committee, Campaign Chairman, Joyce Henry for City Council, Campaign Fundraiser and Contributor for Numerous

Bloomington Campaigns, Host of "Public Forum" on Channel 33, N.A.A.C.P. (Suburban Chapter), Board Member of the Minnesota State University, Hennepin Solid Waste Commission, State of Minnesota Hazardous Waste Management Planning Council, Bloomington Human Rights Commission (Past Chair)

Some recent bills of Rep. Knight are:
HF 944 (Knight, R,

Bloomington, 296-4218 Exempts dental providers from the 2% MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF ---- A bill to return the 2.3 billion dollar tax overpayment back to Minnesotans in the form of \$200/person to a maximum of \$1,000/family for the next two years.

HF 953 (Knight, R, Bloomington, 296-4218) A bill proposing a consti-

tutional amendment to reduce the size of the legislature, to six times the number of House congressional delegates from Minnesota for the Senate and 12 times that number for the House, for the year 2003 and thereafter. Limits committee chairs to two consecutive terms as chairs.

HF 1473 A bi-partisan bill with Rep. Karen Clark, to limit corporate welfare in Minnesota



Todd Indehar
Pres. Conservationists With Common Sense

Todd Indehar, 36, has been a long time Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) visitor; Born and raised in Minneapolis, he has lived in Ely for 6 years with his wife Karen and their three children: Shannon (8), David (5), and Sarah (2). He enjoys Canoeing, camping, skiing, hunting, and fishing.

Feeling that proposals by the U.S. Forest Service-Preservationist complex would eliminate families and youth groups from the BWCAW, he founded Families For Wilderness. Currently he is the

President of Conservationists With Common Sense (CWCS).

CWCS Background: Founded in 1989 in Tower, Minnesota CWCS is an all volunteer grassroots group of 4,000 people. CWCS is involved in a wide range of public land use and property rights issues, with an emphasis on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

CWCS generally supports solutions to land use and property rights issues which are environmentally sound, non-coercive, respectful of individual rights, and sensitive to the

customs, cultures and traditions of people and communities which are dependent upon the land. CWCS believes that "bottom-up" solutions such as those provided by free markets, private groups of citizens, or local governments are generally better than the "top-down" solutions of state and federal governments.

The BWCAW area has been a source of controversy since the early 1900's. At the federal level, since 1993 alone, there have been lawsuits over mechanized portaging in the BWCAW (went to the Supreme Court) and

the 1992 BWCAW Management Plan (decision pending); multiple administrative appeals-two historic joint Congressional oversight field hearings; three bills introduced in Congress; hearings in both the House and Senate on those bills; and federal mediation.

Superficially, the current controversies revolve around the issues of the appropriate types and levels of visitor recreational use. On a deeper level there are issues of home rule, community stability, impacts on individuals and families, cultural

preservation, and fairness to multiple stake-holders. Deeper yet are issues of man's relationship to nature; church and state; and the individual versus the collective; and tyranny of the majority.

How these issues are ultimately resolved will have large impacts on many people, both now and in future generations. It is important for people to understand what the real issues, facts, and consequences are of this important public policy debate.



Chris Wright

Chris Wright is a graduate of Northwestern Electronics Institute: (Associate of Electronics), and is an organizer of the Minnesota Tea Party, an annual anti-prohibitioti rally held at the capitol since 1987. Wright is also-founder of the weekly cable access show known as "THC - The Hemp Channel"

Currently, he is attempting to overturn the State Controlled Substances Act on the basis of Article XIII, Section 7, of the Minnesota Constitution, which states, "**Any person may sell or peddle the products of the farm or garden occupied and cultivated by him without obtaining a license.**" In addition, he has been involved in

writing a text on the origins of the narcotics and alcohol prohibition laws.

Since 1987, he has been a good friend of Dennis Peron, the founder of the Cannabis Buyer's Club, now the Cannabis Cultivator's Club, and the author of Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana in the State of California.

In 1992, he assisted with the collection of petition signatures to put Libertarian Party candidate Eric Olson on the ballot for the U.S. Senate and worked with Eric in preparation for a pilot show featuring Barbara Carlson as host, with guest Ted Nugent.

"By threatening to arrest and imprison

doctors who prescribe marijuana to relieve pain and suffering, Bill Clinton has made compassion a crime."

"He is mistaking political judgment for medical judgment, and thousands of sick and dying people will suffer needlessly as a result."

Libertarian Party Chair Steve Dasbach.

Proposed amendments to the LP of MN platform to be debated at Convention April 19, 1997

Additional planks or amendments may be submitted from the floor (in writing) if time permits after these proposals have been debated.

Amendments to platform:

1. Submitted by Paul Streeter

A.3. Freedom of Speech

add, "the internet" so that the third sentence would read:

We oppose any attempt by government to regulate film, recording, the internet, or publishing industries including the press.

2. Submitted by Bob Kuhn

A.9 Drugs and Alcohol

add the following sentence:

Until such time as the prohibition of drugs is repealed, we call for an end to the sadistic denial of pain relieving drugs such as marijuana and heroin to those who are suffering.

3. Submitted by Bob Kuhn

B. Trade and Society

add 14. Freedom of Marriage

While we believe that unions between adults are a private matter and should not be the

subject of government licensing, it is a fact that married couples are recognized in both private and public matters as being of a special nature. Therefore, we call for the State of Minnesota, and all other states, to grant the same recognition and protection to unions between two persons of the same sex as are granted to heterosexual marriages, for all states to follow the constitution in giving full faith and credit to the acts of other states and for the Federal government to honor local law in any areas, such as taxation and immigration, where marital status is a factor.

Silent Auction at LPMN Convention April 19

Convention attendees are encouraged to donate an item or service to help raise funds for the Minnesota Libertarian Party

A silent auction will be held at the convention, with items and services awarded to the highest bidders. Please indicate your donation on the convention registration form.

A Vision of a Free Society: Part I

By
Jacob G. Hornberger

If we abolish public schooling, then how will the poor be educated? If drug laws are repealed, won't everyone go on drugs? If Social Security is abolished, won't old people starve to death? If we don't have Medicare and Medicaid, how would anyone afford decent medical care? If we don't have licensing, won't quacks be performing heart surgery? If we don't have a Food and Drug Administration, won't Safeway sell rotten food?

What would happen if all of the government operations that take money from one person and give it to another and that regulate peaceful behavior were abolished? What would a such a society look like?

This series of essays "A Vision of a Free Society" will be devoted to presenting the positive case for freedom. It will examine the workings of an unhampered market economy; one in which individuals are free to accumulate unlimited amounts of wealth; free to live their lives any way they want, so long as they do so peacefully; and free to dispose of their money any way they see fit.

Would there be chaos or harmony in such a society? Would there be prosperity or poverty? Would such a society be moral or immoral? Caring or selfish? How would it all work if government officials were not directing and restricting peoples lives and fortunes?

But before beginning this project, it is instructive to analyze the depth to which Americans are dependent on the modern-day, socialistic welfare state. The thought of abolishing, rather than simply reforming, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public schooling, and the like sends shivers down the spines of our fellow citizens. The mind-set of dependency on welfare-state programs is as pervasive as it is among the citizens of Cuba and North Korea, perhaps even more so, since Americans view these programs as capitalism, while the people in communist countries view them for what they really are: socialism.

Part of the problem is that most Americans living today have never seen a truly unhampered market economy. There are not many Americans alive today who lived before 1913; before income taxation, a central bank, Social Security, economic regulations, Medicare, Medicaid, and so forth. When a person has grown up under a

certain set of conditions, especially ones that have been described as freedom, the thought of abolishing those conditions is quite frightening.

It is not surprising that, given a choice, the average North Korean would never give up his Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and public schooling. It is also not surprising to me that the average American of today would not do so either.

The status quo appears safe and secure. Freedom appears risky and unpredictable, and this frightens people. They honestly feel more secure in the knowledge that government is there and doing something than in the vicissitudes of the market economy.

Let's take a hypothetical example. Suppose during the New Deal that national, state, and local governments had begun extensive regulation of all restaurants in the country and that this regulation had continued through the present. It is not difficult to imagine the difficult task a libertarian would face in persuading his fellow Americans to repeal all of the restaurant legislation.

Average American: Are you joking? Are you honestly saying that the law requiring tipping should be repealed?

Libertarian: That's exactly what I'm saying.

Average American: Why that's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. How would waiters and waitresses live if the law didn't require people to leave at least 10 percent of the bill as a tip?

Libertarian: I believe that you could depend on most people to do the right thing to leave a tip when the service warranted it.

Average American: You libertarians are utopians! People would never leave tips if they weren't forced to. And certainly out-of-town tourists would have no incentive to do so. Why, under your idealistic system, there would no longer be waiters and waitresses because they'd all starve to death.

Libertarian: Well, how about repealing licensing of cooks?

Average American: You can't really be serious. You would let just anyone be a cook in a public restaurant? Oh, great! Under your system, any mass murderer in the country could just walk into any restaurant, become the cook, and drop arsenic in everybody's food.

Libertarian: I believe you could count on the market process to ferret this out. Restaurant owners would have an incentive to hire good chefs in order to attract more customers to their restaurants. The hiring of a bad chef would certainly not be in their inter-

est. You really don't need government to certify whether a person is a good cook or not.

Average American: Under your system of anarchy, no one in his right mind would ever walk into any restaurant whose cook had not been licensed by the government. Restaurants would simply go out of business.

Libertarian: How would you feel about abolishing government-owned restaurants for the poor?

Average American: What exactly do you have against the poor? Do you hate the poor? If you abolished government restaurants, where would the poor eat? You libertarians ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

Libertarian: Don't you feel that the market process would generate restaurants for poor people?

Average American: Stop being so idealistic. If government didn't own and operate restaurants for the indigent, people would be starving in the streets.

Libertarian: Would you at least agree that the national government's Department of Restaurants should be abolished?

Average American: Look, I'm in favor of getting rid of the waste, fraud, and abuse in the Department of Restaurants. But there is no way I'd ever support abolishing the entire department.

Libertarian: Why?

Average American: Because there would be chaos if the government weren't overseeing the operation of restaurants in America. How could we be certain that each restaurant would have the right types and amounts of food if the government weren't directing how food was to be distributed to each restaurant? Some restaurants would end up with all of the bad food or the wrong food or, worst of all, no food at all. Moreover, imagine what would happen if the government weren't directing where restaurants could be built. Why you'd probably have four different hamburger places competing at the same intersection. What a waste of resources that would be! The free market is fine and I'm the biggest free-enterpriser you'd ever find but you can't leave the restaurant business to the laws of supply and demand.

Libertarian: Well, Republicans and Democrats are now talking about ending restaurant regulation and welfare as we know it. They want to return the whole thing to the state and local governments.

Average American: Well, I might be willing to support that. The state and local restaurant boards are closer to the people. And the citizenry gets to elect the local restaurant-board trustees. It's really good

to see that Democrats and Republicans are finally moving in a free-enterprise direction.

Libertarian: But wouldn't a truly free-market approach entail abolishing all of the departments, agencies, and laws national, state, and local?

Average American: The trouble with you libertarians is that you always want to throw the baby out with the bath water. There's nothing wrong with government overseeing the restaurant business. We just have to work together get better people in public office elect Christians restore morality and responsibility to America and we'll finally make the various departments of restaurants do a much better job in the future. Stop criticizing and start making it happen! We Americans are a can-do people. We can make anything work, even government ownership or control over the means of production, especially when we call it free enterprise.

Libertarian: Well, it seems like I'm having a tough time convincing you of the merits of libertarianism.

Average American: It's just that you libertarians are so cold, cruel, and heartless. Forget your idealism and be practical. Look, why don't you start with something easy like ending public schools. It's foolish to begin with something as important as food!

The problem we libertarians face in America, then, is multifaceted. It's an economic problem because the regulated economy is so destructive to the economic well-being of society. It is political because the modern-day, socialistic welfare state and government-controlled economy cannot be repealed without the support of the majority of the citizenry. It is moral because of the political stealing that underlies the welfare state and the interference with free-will that underlies the regulated society.

And it is psychological. While the proponents of central planning and control may debate endlessly about the merits of such socialist schemes as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public schooling, income taxation, and the like, there is one truth that is irrefutable: The American people are hooked on this junk and cannot let it go. And at the core of the addiction to this political heroin is a lack of faith in themselves and in each other.

Look at the faith that Americans have in bureaucrats

and government agencies. They honestly believe that their food is safe because of government. That their planes are safe because of government. That lawyers and doctors are competent because of government. That their children are educated because of government. That the elderly are taken care of because of government. Their faith in the state in bureaucrats and bureaucracies is total and unwavering.

Yet ask them about abolishing the FDA, the FAA, licensing laws, public schooling, Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid. Their lack of faith in themselves, their friends, and their neighbors becomes immediately manifest. Private people are malicious, selfish, and self-centered. They'll let people starve the death and especially their own parents. They'll inject drugs into their children and certainly won't get them educated. They'll let quacks perform open-heart surgery. No, you can't trust private people because they're just not like our bureaucrats; they think only of themselves and hate everyone else.

Ultimately, the American people must come to grips with their own internal doubts about themselves, their friends and neighbors, and their heritage of an unhampered market economy. As their faith in the state continues to wane in the face of increasing government failures, we can hope that Americans will begin to look inward in an attempt to resolve the doubts they have about themselves. As they raise their self-esteem, individuals will also begin to believe more in others, for when one thinks more highly of himself, he thinks more highly of others, as well.

As this process continues to unfold and as our fellow Americans begin discovering their libertarian heritage they will begin asking the questions that we libertarians have asked ourselves for decades. What would a free society look like? How would it work? How would the market process function? Who would benefit? Would the poor be left out? Can the free market really succeed?

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Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

<http://www.fff.org/freedom/daily/>

What It Means to be a Libertarian by Charles Murray

Book report
by Brent Jass

In his book, *"What It Means To Be A Libertarian"*, Charles Murray calls for a federal government, after transition, "of about two-fifths of its present size, or a federal government that absorbs about the same percentage of the Gross National Product as it did during Franklin Roosevelt's first two terms."

He recommends a \$3,000 unrestricted tuition voucher for each child attending elementary and secondary school — an expenditure of about \$150 billion a year.

The most interesting part of the book is his discussion of "trendlines" showing what was happening before and after the intervention of government:

"Plot the proportion of Americans below the official poverty line from World War II to the present, then superimpose on that graph the amount of money that government has spent trying to help the poor. Mark the trendline with the dates of major legislation to help the disadvantaged."

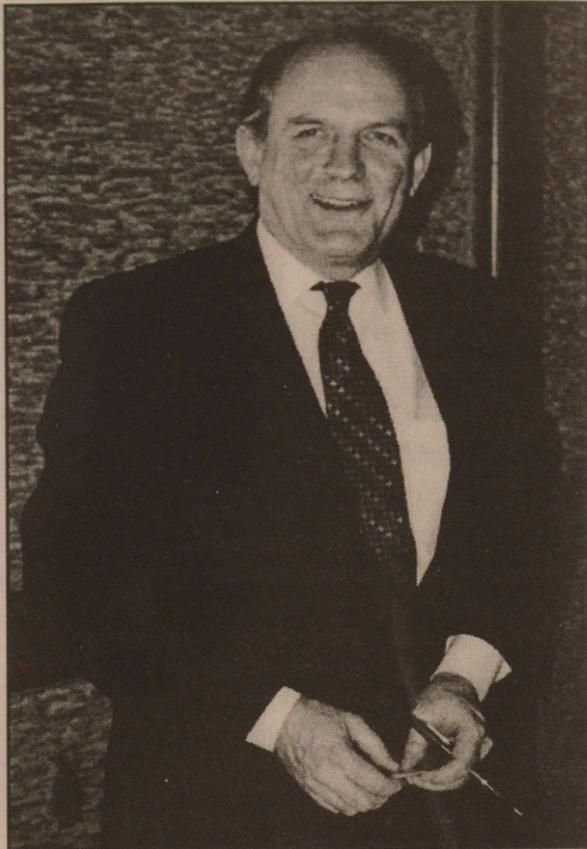
He suggests doing the same with education, health, safety, and other government spending.

"Suppose you have compiled several dozen such trendlines. Here is what you will find:

"In a few cases improvement immediately follows the government intervention. Those will be the cases that you have probably already heard about, because they are the ones that have been publicized. To my knowledge the best examples involve the environment, showing, for example, that reductions in some emissions (but only some) steepened after federal emissions standards were set. In other policy areas there are occasional successes — college enrollment of blacks began a sharp increase in 1967, for example.

Much more commonly, however, trendlines show a persistent tendency to shift in the

occasionally listen to Public Radio. I even subscribed to Utne Reader for a couple of



Charles Murray

"wrong" direction after the government intervenes..."

"...Among trendlines involving social indicators — crime, the family, community, education, welfare — deterioration has been the rule and improvement is the exception. Among trendlines involving safety and health by far the most common result is ... nothing. Whatever was happening before the government got involved continued to happen after the government got involved."

He goes on to detail the results of the New Deal, The War on Poverty, Affirmative Action, and Medicare and Medicaid, and the bibliography provides sources so the reader might examine other trendlines. Murray then gives a plausible explanation of why the trendlines are so seldom moved in the right direction by government intervention.

I don't like everything he says, but then I don't spend much time reading anything with which I agree completely. (I read all the messages to mn-politics@MR.Net, and

years, because I thought I might eventually come across a reasoned argument. I was wrong.)

Charles Murray's book, by the way, doesn't "advocate doing away with virtually every aspect of government, except Defense", although he may have come across this way on TV. His proposals mainly involve scaling back the executive branch of the federal government. The State Department, the Department of Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency would still exist, with only some functions eliminated.

"In my version of limited government Yellowstone Park would still be open and the lights would still be lit on the Washington Monument."

Murray argues for pragmatism: Limit government by doing away with those areas in which it hasn't succeeded, and cannot succeed. While few of any ideology will agree with him on every issue, he makes a convincing case for the American ideal of limited government.

Some upcoming events Libertarian Party of Minnesota

Saturday April 5 8 PM - 1 AM St. Cloud, MN
Fool's Night Out
Say "NO" to Bad Laws
Reclaim Your Constitutional Rights
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Friday April 11 1-3 PM
Right to Carry Rally at the Capitol steps

Monday April 15 5-9 PM
Annual income tax protest
at the Main Minneapolis Post Office

**State Convention: Saturday April 19, 1997
Hopkins House Hopkins, MN**

Thursday May 1 10 AM - 2 PM
Freedom Day at the State Capitol on

June 28 & 29 Gay Pride Weekend on Nicollet Island

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Home Page is at:

<http://www.lpmn.org>

Libertarian Party of Minnesota's
listserv:

minnlib@superb.net

National Libertarian Party World Wide
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<http://www.lp.org/lp/>

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<http://www.lp.org/lp/lp-aff.html>

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World's Smallest Political Quiz:
<http://www.self-gov.org/lp-quiz.shtml>

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11:30 AM
(repeated at
4:00 PM on
Sundays)

John Adams Society

By Caryn Cohen

The John Adams Society is a group that meets monthly to debate topics of interest to Conservatives. The people in the group are well-spoken and include "Christian-Conservatives" and "Libertarian-Conservatives."

I have been attending for several years and have always found the meetings to be entertaining and thought-provoking.

The debates are usually held on Wednesday nights on the University of Minnesota Campus at Nolte Hall, 315 Pillsbury Drive, Minneapolis. Nolte Hall is located at the corner of Church St. and Pillsbury Dr., one block south of University Ave. Use the Pillsbury DR

entrance. Parking can be found underneath Nolte Hall or in the Fourth Street lot.

Refreshments are available starting at 7:00 and the debate begins at 7:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend and anyone is welcome to speak on the topic, but may not bring notes to the floor to speak. If you plan to speak you should dress neatly (i.e., "work clothing" is appropriate.) If you don't plan to speak, you are welcome to come and just view the "fun", but you may want to dress nicely, anyway!

The topic of the February debate was "Resolved: MNBall!" and, addressed whether a government-sponsored stadium is appropriate. If you have questions, you may e-mail me, Caryn Cohen, or call the Chair of the Society, Chris Gerlach, at 432-4100, or the Secretary, Michael Amery, at 348-7887.

Upcoming debates are scheduled for April 16, and May 21.

Right to carry rally Fri. April 11 1-3 PM at Capitol

"No freeman shall be debarred the use of arms."

Thomas Jefferson

Bills have been submitted for 1997-98 Legislative Session in House (**HF 985**), Bettermann) and in Senate (**SF 792**, Pariseau) that would allow any responsible, competent adult a permit to carry firearms in Minnesota. These bills are presently in committee where chairmen are threatening to table them..

A Rally will Be held on Friday April 11, 1997 1-3 PM State Capitol steps

Our goal is to present the concerns of this issue to persons who can get these bills out of committee and into their respective houses for consideration by the full body of our Legislature.

Representative Wes Skoglund is committee chair in the house, Senator Alan Spear is committee chair in the Senate. The Legislature will be in session and it is hoped people will go inside to view the procedures and visit their individual representatives to discuss issues.

Other speakers:

Galye Dixon attorney and member of the Saint Paul Rod & Gun Club and the Minnetonka Game & Fish Club.

Charles Test, Chair, MN Libertarian Party
Diana Longrie-Kline of Concealed Carry Reform Now (CCRN)

If schedule permits Sen. Pat Pariseau, R, (author **SF 792**) and Hilda Bettermann, R, (author **HF 985**) and co-authors Sen. Paula Hanson (DFL) and Rep. Leslie Shumacher (DFL) will speak to the crowd.

For more information call (612) 451-3085
Concealed Carry Reform Now 636-4465
Libertarian Party of Minnesota 874-8531
+ 1-800-788-2660

Everyone carries a part of society on his shoulders; no one is relieved of his share of responsibility by others. And no one can find a safe way out for himself if society is sweeping toward destruction. Therefore everyone, in his own interests, must thrust himself vigorously into the intellectual battle. None can stand aside with unconcern; the interests of everyone hang on the results. Whether he chooses or not, every man is drawn into the great struggle, the decisive battle into which our epoch has plunged us.

Ludwig von Mises

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World's Smallest Political Quiz

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Are you a Self-Governor on PERSONAL issues?	20	10	0
• Military service should be voluntary. No draft.	Y	M	N
• Government should not control radio, TV, the press or the Internet.	Y	M	N
• Repeal regulations on sex for consenting adults.	Y	M	N
• Drug laws do more harm than good. Repeal them.	Y	M	N
• Let peaceful people cross borders freely.	Y	M	N
PERSONAL Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

Are you a Self-Governor on ECONOMIC issues?	20	10	0
• Businesses and farms should operate without government subsidies.	Y	M	N
• People are better off with free trade than with tariffs.	Y	M	N
• Minimum wage laws cause unemployment. Repeal.	Y	M	N
• End taxes. Pay for services with user fees.	Y	M	N
• All foreign aid should be privately funded.	Y	M	N
ECONOMIC Self-Governor score: add 20 for Y, 10 for M, 0 for N.	<input type="text"/>		

How to use the Self-Government Compass:

Mark your PERSONAL score on the left and your ECONOMIC score on the right. See example: 20% Personal and 10% Economic. Now, follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The compass measures self-gov-ernment. Liberals value freedom of expression. Conservatives value free enterprise. Libertarians value both. Authoritarians are against both. For example: M. Thatcher, right; F.D. Roosevelt, left; Henry David Thoreau and Thomas Jefferson, top; Stalin and Hitler, bottom. Free info about libertarian ideas. Call 223-0995, metro. Or, 1-800-788-2660, in greater Minnesota. Or write: Libertarian Party of MN, P.O. Box 580774, Mpls., MN 55458-0774.

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...Robert Frost, "A Considerable Speck"

THE REASON FOUNDATION

is a libertarian think tank. They have lots of neat stuff, including REASON MAGAZINE online. Occasionally they publish a corker of an article about the environment. A recent issue had an article titled "Dances with Myths", the truth about the Indians' use of property rights to manage their resources. This article alone is worth visiting the website for. <http://www.reason.org>

Only Twins will benefit from new stadium

By Rich Osness

In spite of almost universal opposition by the newly elected state legislature and the citizens of Minnesota, once again the taxpayers are being asked to pay for all or part of a new major sports facility.

To understand why, we need to understand how government works. A few people will receive large benefits and the costs will be spread so thinly among the rest of us that we will not notice how it adversely affects our lives. The ones who receive the large benefits will make a proportionate effort to have this done. The rest of us will eventually decide it is not worth the fight. It will still have a negative affect on all of our lives.

Once again taxes will be forcibly taken from people making ten dollars an hour or even the minimum wage to subsidize ballplayers making millions of dollars per year. Mom and pop businesses will be hurt to help businesses worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The politically powerful will benefit at the expense of the politically powerless. We voted for it. We voted for it when we voted to give so much power to the ones who make our decisions in St. Paul.

The owners of the Twins (and possibly Vikings) think they will benefit by having a new facility paid for by somebody else. In any government project of this size the potential profits are large. Government spends money less wisely than someone spending their own money. Architectural and engineering firms will line up at the trough. The construction contracts will offer larger profits for those who participate. The construction

workers will be paid more than the average state wage for their trade. Even the current owners of the selected site will be paid more than otherwise for their land. A lot of people will benefit immediately. The rest of us will pay for this in higher taxes, higher prices for everything we buy and lower wages and salaries.



Rich Osness

Our own elected officials want this for a variety of reasons. The most honorable is that they are foolish enough to believe that it will benefit the local economy. They may also wish to leave a large public monument much like the pyramids of Egypt or Mexico. (I suspect the people building the pyramids were told how much they or their children would benefit from their labor.) Maybe they just like spending big money and the feeling of power that comes with it. These are the honorable but asinine reasons.

The more likely reasons are that the elected or appointed officials believe they will receive a financial benefit. These benefits include campaign contributions, a lucrative job in the private sector, kickbacks on contracts and other less direct exchanges of things of value. Whenever public officials have a large amount of power some of them will sell that power.

The most obvious benefit they will attempt to sell us is the financial

benefit of having a major league ball team. They will tell us about all of the money it will bring into the region. Nonsense. The money is already here. The vast majority of the receipts at the ballpark and surrounding businesses is money spent by people from the region that would otherwise be spent in other businesses, yours and mine for instance.

They will appeal to our local pride. If we lose _____ (fill in the blank) the Twin Cities will become a "cold Omaha". I've been to Omaha. It's not that bad. Losing the North Stars did not end hockey in Minnesota. We still have the richest tradition of hockey this side of Canada. Not having a major league baseball or football team will leave more money for the amateur programs in those sports, not less. The minor league teams will have better attendance, not less. Our high school and college teams will have more funds, not less.

If the major league teams cannot make it in this market without more money taken forcibly from the citizens, let them leave. If some other city sees fit to hurt their other businesses to lure away one of our teams, their economies will lose and ours will benefit. We will become more competitive in every aspect.

None of the arguments for subsidizing major league sports or any other business impress me. The citizens of Minnesota agreed with this a few weeks ago. The legislature we elected said they agreed. We must remind them what they said. Our governor should be asked for which of the above reasons he supports public funding of a new stadium.

Trumping property rights: The Abuse of Eminent Domain

By Dana Berliner

Imagine finding the following notice tacked to the front door of your home: "YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO MOVE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THIS NOTICE. IF YOU REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY AFTER THAT TIME, CRDA MAY BE ABLE TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR BELONGINGS REMOVED BY THE SHERIFF."

Vera Coking received this letter telling her to move out of the home she has lived in for 36 years. So did Joseph and Gilda Ann Rutigliano, who made their life's work operating a small motel in Atlantic City for more than 30 years. So did Vincent Sabatini and his wife, who have run an Italian restaurant for the past 32 years, and Peter Banin, who had just purchased his small gold shop. Neighboring casino/hotels wanted their property, and the New Jersey Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), a state agency, agreed to condemn the properties and transfer it to the casinos.

Trump Plaza wants to park limousines where Vera Cokings house now stands; the Sabatini restaurant and the Banin shop will, for at least the short term, become a grassy area in front of the casino. The Rutiglianos' motel will become a parking lot for the Tropicana Hotel across the street.

These properties are being condemned using a process called "eminent domain," which allows the government to condemn properties "for public use." In

December 1996 and early 1997, the Institute for Justice will apply to join two lawsuits challenging the use of eminent domain by CRDA. In the first case, IJ asks the New Jersey Supreme Court to reverse the appellate decision that allows the condemnation and transfer of Vera Coking's property at fire-sales prices. IJ further asks the Court to hold that the condemnation violated the New Jersey and federal Constitutions. In the second case, IJ will represent the Rutiglianos in opposing, on constitutional grounds, the condemnation of their motel. IJ joins with New Jersey attorney Glenn Zeitz who represents both parties.

Originally, eminent domain was a power that allowed the government to construct public works, like roads and aqueducts. Government was limited to taking only that property necessary for the public use. Gradually, though, government has come to ignore these limits. Now, local governments will take property and give it to a private person for their personal gain. Any trivial thing that a government might do—such as plant flowers—it can condemn property to do. And it need not demonstrate that it actually requires the property in question.

CRDA's attempts to take these properties violated the New Jersey and U.S. Constitutions. First, taking property from one person to give to another is not a "public" use. Second, condemning these properties is totally unnecessary: Not only can both Trump and Tropicana

afford to pay market rates for these properties, but also they can complete their construction projects without the additional properties. Under New Jersey law, government may not take more property than it needs for public use.

Third, New Jersey has unconstitutionally delegated its condemnation power to CRDA. That agency then defers to casinos that apply for funding to determine which private homes and businesses will be torn down. It must get approval from a casino before issuing a notice of condemnation. If a casino decides it does not want that property, CRDA won't condemn it.

Finally, these condemnations are unreasonable. Atlantic City wants to take private property from Coking, Sabatini, and Banin so Trump's customers can patronize his casino. The Rutiglianos' motel and parking lot will become more parking for the Tropicana Hotel. It's hard to come up with a more frivolous use of the power of eminent domain or one more geared to private gain rather than of public use.

These cases ask New Jersey's courts to read three important words of the Constitution—the requirement that a taking be "for public use"—and force CRDA to comply. Until a ruling returns substantive meaning to these words, government entities and special interests will continue to try to take property for any reason at all.

(From *Liberty & Law* 2/97 Vol 6 No 1)
Published by the Institute for Justice
www.institute-forjustice.org

um. We do not need a new publicly funded stadium for any major league sport but perhaps

we need a new governor. Perhaps two years is too long to wait for a new governor.

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MINN Legislative Bills to watch in 1997

a sampling of the thousands of new laws introduced in 1997 alone

These are just a few of the thousands of bills introduced during the 1997 session of the Minnesota Legislature. The LP of MN will be following these bills and others as things progress. Please note the author's names and phone numbers for calling. Please make a point of calling and writing your representatives pro or con about each of these bills. Thank you.

BAD BILLS

HF 1367/SF 1140
Rep. Ann Rest, DFL, New Hope and Jerry Janezich, DFL, Chisholm

A bill that authorizes construction of a new baseball (Twins) stadium with public money.

SF 98/HF 556 State wants use of social security number of new unique patient identifier number.

(Rep. Greenfield #296-0173, Senator Betzold #296-2556) Current law states that by Jan, 1998, the Health Dept, (MDH) must: 1) develop an alternate numbering system of those who refuse to use their SS number and 2) issue individual Minnesota health care identification cards. The MDH now wants to repeal the section giving citizens the right to use a number other than their social security number. CCHC wants to keep the current language and change date to January 2000; then change federal law by year 2000.

For the unique patient identifier numbers passed into law in 1994, this bill strikes (eliminates) language that allows individuals to use a number other than their social security number for their medical records and insurance company.

If the social security number is used, those with access to tax records can access medical records, and those with access to medical records can access tax and bank records.

SF 126/HF 259: Creating Community and Statewide Immunization Registries (Sen. Berglin #296-4261; Rep. Slawik #296-7807)

A new central collection of data would be maintained on all persons in a geographic area, starting with birth records. Physicians would report immunizations to the registry. The registry staff would document and share information and call and remind parents and physicians when children's immunizations are due. Using taxpayer dollars, the state will assume the role of parent.

This new statewide electronic network on citizens can then be expanded for other data collection purposes in the future.

This bill establishes a community-based and statewide health department-based immunization registry. It is likely that communities, individual counties, or groups of counties would band together to create the community-based registry.

Birth certificates would be gathered from younger children and all newborns and the information would be entered into the database. All physicians and other providers of immunizations would need to submit immunization data to the registry, and then the registry would notify parents and providers to immunize children who are not up-to-date.

This does many things:

- 1) The state will take on the role of parent with taxpayer money;
- 2) The state will set up a statewide electronic data exchange system and database;
- 3) The database will undoubtedly be used to collect more than immunization information;
- 4) The state will know the movement of families around the state;
- 5) Privacy and family autonomy will be infringed;
- 6) Health plans will know immunization levels and may not cover illness caused by lack of immunizations;
- 7) Taxpayers will fund the yearly operation of the system. (The set-up has received federal grant money.)

2/13/97 Passed health policy committee, Likely next vote: 2/17/97 in the Judiciary Committee. Send letters in opposition (to be part of the public record) to Sen. Jane Ranum (D), Chair, 306 Capitol, St. Paul, 55155 #297-8061.

SF 100/HF 120: Establishing the Office of Technology

(Sen. Runbeck #296-1235; Rep. Kahn #296-4257) If passed the office will "provide a single focus point...to address the infrastructure, policy, service, and regulatory issues in the...information and communications industry." It will centralize access to all information at the state level. The Office of Technology was "established in the Fall of 1996" without legislative authority. It has a staff of people who are funded by, and on loan from, other state departments. Legislators will now find it difficult to vote against a fully operational

office. Privacy got very little discussion in their latest presentation. Cost: \$1.2M per year.

HF 120/SF 635: Office of Technology Initiatives (Sen. Steve Kelly #297-8065; Rep. Entenza #296-8799)

• **The MNCARD**- an "electronic wallet" for state employee's initially, then for all Minnesotans. Information on card may include: state employees identification, building and parking access, calling card features, employee workstation security, employee and dependent insurance carrier identification, employee time and attendance, debit features for cafeterias, vending machines, and bank or credit union services, and other service capabilities (drivers license, park permit, hunting license, access to government benefits, medical records, etc).

Implementation schedule: 1998: one or two state agencies; 1999: all state employees; 2000: "Expand to general population." Use of the MNCARD optional gradually phased in as: "standard card." (O. of Tech. Budget Book, p. 115)

All private information would be stored on a computer chip in the card. The Office of Technology says the "card readers must be installed in stores, libraries, government agencies, kiosks, schools, homes, and offices." Your medical information, your habits and shopping patterns, your driving record, your whereabouts, your social security number, and access to your bank will all be available on one card. Cost: \$250,000/yr for 4 years.

SF 430/HF 844 A Birth Defects Information System (Sen. Berglin 296-4261; Rep. Rest 296-4176)

Physicians and hospitals must give information to state officials on each birth defect "case." Officials will then ascertain validity. Data collected on individuals can be shared with other states, or with other agencies in Minnesota.

SF 6 Licensing for the retail sale of tobacco.

HF 446 (Biernat, DFL, Minneapolis, 296-4219) Prohibits the issuance of a driver's license to anyone under 18 who:

1. has failed to pass the state's high school graduation test, or
2. has failed to graduate from or is not attending high school. Also suspends the licenses of those under 18 who quit or are suspended from school, or who frequently skip school.

SF 523 Licensing of naturopathic physicians.

HF 892 (Rukavina, DFL, Virginia, 296-0170) Increases minimum wage and adds additional regulation to employment.

SF 738 (Morse, DFL, Dakota, 296-5649) Establishes goals and provides state and local technical assistance for the establishment of a "community-based land-use planning advisory panel."

SF 756 Prohibiting landlords from penalizing tenants for seeking police.

HF 932 Nuisance law. Makes code violations count as nuisance violations in Rental licensing. Criminalizes code violations.

HF 1066 (Greenfield, DFL, Minneapolis, 296-0173) Makes not wearing a seat belt a primary offense. Police will be able to pull you over for only not wearing a seat belt.

HF 1570 (Clark, DFL, Minneapolis, 296-0294) **SF 1426** (Anderson, DFL, St. Paul, 296-5537) Landlords are required to prevent tobacco smoke from entering common areas of rental property.

GOOD BILLS:

SF 88 (Authors are Arlene J. Lesewski of district 21, Dave Kleis of 16, Michelle L. Fischbach of 14, Cal Larson of 10, and Dean E. Johnson of 15.) "The right of a citizen to keep and bear arms for the defense and security of the person, family, or home, or for lawful hunting, recreation, or marksmanship training is fundamental and shall not be abridged."

HF 172 (Paulsen, R, Eden Prairie, 296-7449) Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit legislative and constitutional officer terms to 12 years.

HF 213 (Greiling, DFL, Roseville, 296-5387)

SF 259 (Cohen, DFL, St. Paul, 296-5931) Eliminates per diem and mileage payments for legislators and provides reimbursement for documented expenses only.

HF 462 (Erhardt, R, Edina, 296-4363)

SF 679 Kleis, R, St. Cloud, 296-6455

Proposes a constitutional amendment that would require a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the House and Senate in order to raise income or sales taxes.

SF 467 (Robertson, R, Minnetonka, 296-4314) Same as **HF 9**

Allows a non-refundable credit of up to \$125 against income taxes for "qualified charitable contributions".

SF 489 (Runbeck, R, Circle Pines, 296-1253)

HF 328 (Seagren) Allows deductions from taxable income for contributions made to and interest earned from a medical savings account (MSA) for those not enrolled in an employer-sponsored MSA.

The idea behind MSAs is to encourage taxpayers to create a fund from which the costs of office visits and other kinds of routine health care can be paid. This would allow them to buy lower-cost health care policies containing larger deductibles, and would also encourage them to purchase catastrophic coverage. Most employer-sponsored MSAs are about \$3,000. Congress passed a test program for them last year. This bill would encourage MSAs in Minnesota in the absence of employer-sponsorship by providing for a tax deduction for contributions to an MSA account.

HF 557 John Tuma, R, Northfield, 296-4229) (Call Nancy Conley 296-4374) Minnesota school districts would be allowed to hire non-licensed teachers without approval from the State Board of Teaching.

SF 586 (Knutson, R, Burnsville, 296-4120)

Proposes a constitutional amendment to restrict the legislature to meeting in odd-numbered years only.

HF 804 (Milbert, DFL, S St. Paul, 296-4192)

Prohibits local governments from charging more for a building permit than it costs to issue and enforce it.

HF 618 (Ness, R, Dassel, 296-4344)

Provides for the periodic repeal of administrative rules (every 10 years), with years of repeal staggered by department so that all don't expire at once.

This bill would require a review and justification of all administrative rules, which have the force of law and do not get nearly as much scrutiny as legislation many times.

HF 825 (Mulder, R, Ivanhoe, 296-4336)

Adopts federal provisions which provide for medical savings accounts.

HF 859 (Opatz, DFL, St. Cloud, 296-6612 and **SF 791** (Pariseau, R, Farmington, 296-5252)

Exempts dental goods and services from the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

SF 758 (Kleis, R, St. Cloud, 296-6455)

Requires an oath of truth before individuals can testify before a legislative body.

HF 923 (Seagren, R, Bloomington 296-8803 and **SF 831** (Runbeck, R, Circle Pines 296-1253)

Permits state-chartered financial institutions to act as trustees of federally-qualified medical savings accounts.

HF 944 (Knight, R, Bloomington, 296-4218)

Exempts dental providers from the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF 705 (Rifenberg, R, La Crescent, 296-1069)

Proposes a constitutional amendment to require a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the legislature for any sales or income tax rate increase to take effect.

HF 951 (Knight, R, Bloomington, 296-4218)

Defines mandates from the state and requires the state to provide funding for any they require of local governments if the statewide costs exceeds \$1 million for schools or counties, or \$500,000 for cities. If funding is provided in these instances, the local governments are free to ignore the mandates.

HF 953 (Knight, R, Bloomington, 296-4218)

A bill proposing a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the legislature, to six times the number of House congressional delegates from Minnesota for the Senate and 12 times that number for the House, for the year 2003 and thereafter. Limits committee chairs to two consecutive terms as chairs.

HF 985 (Bettermann, R, Alexandria, 296-4317)

SF 792 (Pariseau, R, Farmington, 296-5252)

A bill for an act relating to firearms; providing that permits to carry a firearm must be issued to responsible, competent adults; and its companion bill.

HF 1473 (Knight, R, Bloomington, 296-4218)

A bi-partisan bill with Rep. Karen Clark, to limit corporate welfare in Minnesota

Attributes for public officials

By Bob Odden

What are some of the attributes that we are seeking in our public officials. A person who:

- measures everything around them against core beliefs.
- listens to others and gathers information before acting.
- is accessible and seeks out people in the neighborhood.
- makes open decisions.
- is aware that the money they are spending is not theirs and that taxpayer money does not exist to glorify them.
- is willing to acknowledge and reward the good works of others and point out and punish bad behaviors even if this may cost them votes.
- will personally see that the programs and laws that are enacted are achieving their stated goals.
- has the ability to recommend and get through change for the better when the facts justify it.
- can work with committees but at the same time understand the workings of business.

As Libertarians we understand these attributes. Libertarians are thoughtful people who have traveled a long

path to get to their present world view. They usually didn't get their philosophy from their parents or friends. They saw the world around them and how ideas, events, and people interact and came to their own conclusions.

My own personal job is an extension of the above. I work for a large worker's compensation, liability, crime, property, and fleet insurance carrier as a safety consultant. I have a BA degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota. I specialize in the area of construction, fleet, public schools and colleges, and ergonomics.

There are two primary areas of my job. One is to consult with the Underwriting Department concerning current/prospective customers. Underwriting is looking for information concerning the moral nature of the customer and their potential for loss. I know the potential losses for that type of business. Then, I have information on their actual losses and their safety program. The business is also viewed to see how the safety/risk program is being carried out. Summarized information is given back to Underwriting on the business' loss prediction. Underwriting uses this information to first decide if they should give a quote; then, the information is used to set a price. This allows my employer to better obtain business and to make a profit.

I also consult directly with customers to

help them reduce their potential for insurance loss. The benefit to the customer is potentially lower insurance rates with lower losses, increased productivity, fewer injuries, reduced potential for catastrophic loss like fire, and continued insurability. The following 5 steps are the service methods.



photo by Jeffrey A. Austin

Bob Odden

- #1 Identify/recognize the possibility for loss. This is done primarily by auditing the business, and knowing the business' actual and potential loss areas.
- #2 Analyze loss exposures to estimate the likely significance of possible losses. The significance of a loss exposure increases as the actual losses from that exposure become more frequent; more severe; and or interfere more substantially with an organizations ability to achieve its objective.
- #3 Consult with the customer on the safety/risk program evaluation. Identify their

goals/objectives. Get their agreement on upgrading safety/risk program weakness. Develop an action plan with the customer to reduce their loss potential. Have the plan to take into account people, resources, money and materials.

- #4 Audit the customer to see that the recommendations are completed.
- #5 Evaluate the changes to see if the results were obtained. If not, reevaluate the loss area and develop additional controls with the customer.

The potential for loss can be eliminated or reduced by the following methods: exposure avoidance (get out of the business), risk prevention (eliminate the risk through engineering), risk reduction (reducing the risk through engineering or training), segregation of exposure units (separating to reduce the likelihood of several exposure units of being involved in a single loss event), and contractual transfer for risk control (making someone else responsible for the loss like insurance or vendors).

The following are some ways that I work with customers.

- Advising senior management on how to

emphasize safety as an internal part of the organization's risk management program, to encourage and reward safe employee performance, and to correct any weaknesses in risk control.

- Coordinating the efforts of people employed by the organization in recognizing hazards and taking appropriate control measures.
- Informing line managers about how best to carry out their fundamental responsibilities for preventing accidents in their operations.

As a consultant, like many public officials, I don't carry out the recommendations. Like them, I work to persuade organizations to carry out recommendations. I spend about 50% of my time with customers. While I have to make the best recommendations regardless of cost, to get the organization to accept the recommendations often requires a cost benefit analysis. I must listen to customers to find out what they want and what they really want. People will say things like "I want police foot patrols in my neighborhood." What they probably want is lower street crime rates. Where I work, the goal is to help people to live safer, healthier, and more secure lives. As a public official the strategy should be to help people to live freer, more secure lives. If a bill does not

increase peoples personal or economic freedom, it does not deserve to become law. This can be done by persuading people to be more responsible for their own lives. I also analyze problems and develop solutions. Then I find out how the solutions fit in with their organization, goals, and concerns.

All of the above qualifies me to be on the Minneapolis City Council. In addition, I have lived in the city for years, and wish to continue to make it my home.

I am not the only person in the Libertarian Party that has a job or a company that would qualify them for running for public office. There are a number of cities that will be having elections this fall. In Minneapolis, it is only a \$20 dollar filing fee to get on the primary ballot. Compared with the 60 hours of work I and my volunteers spent getting signatures last year to run for Minnesota Senate, that is a bargain. Check with your locality to see when they hold elections next. I certainly would find it more rewarding to run for city council if there were other Party candidates. We are qualified and need to be heard. Remember, if you run as a candidate, you will not be asked to make any personal sacrifices. Do what you can. We as a Party exist to run candidates. If this interests you, please call Charlie Test, (612) 874-8531, or Bob Odden, (612) 724-5526, and we will try to help you get started.

Abuse of power Minneapolis style

By Charles Test

In New Jersey the Atlantic City City Council does the bidding of Donald Trump to take a ma and pa small business and give it to Mr. Trump for a casino parking lot. In Minneapolis the City Council serves the Dayton-Hudson Corporation in taking a thriving two block area of affordable private

small businesses and delivering them up for a corporate headquarters and a chain store. Once upon a time government was limited to only taking private property for public purposes, like roads and aqueducts. Not any more. Today government takes private property for any reason, frequently to benefit the politically connected, under the pretext of "increasing

the tax base." This is an immoral abuse of power by politicians.

The City Council has no business deciding which businesses should be on Nicollet Mall. This action to benefit Target is supposed to increase the City Council's coffers (tax base) full of their overriding addiction OPM (Other People's Money), someday, but it's an illusion because of the mas-

sive public subsidy involved. It sounds like a fraud to me. Unfortunately, this is business as usual for government everywhere, but maybe a public outcry will prevent this local abuse of power. Call now.

This letter was sent to 37 editors in the metro area and the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor.

Welfare for whom?

By Rich T. Putnam

In 1995 the MN Twins paid their players an average annual income of \$757,293. [data source: the MN Valley Regional Library in Mankato]. The organization says it's losing money and asks that taxpayers help them out. In 1995 the average Blue Earth County worker earned \$21,902.53 [data source: the Mankato office of the MN Jobs Service]. A tax-based solution that affects Blue Earth County would be forcing the \$21,903 work-

er to indirectly contribute to the income of the \$757,293 player. For money that the organization does not need to pay for facilities is then available to pay salaries.

Does such perverse welfare make sense to you? If it doesn't, then I suggest you contact state legislative representatives and let them know how you feel.

Published in the Mankato Free Press on 12/26/96 and in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune on Sunday 12/29/96

Resources at the Minnesota Legislature (Publications):

Senate Weekly - Metro: 296-0504
Session Weekly (MN House) - Metro: 296-2146

Greater MN: 888 234-1112
Greater MN 800 657-3550

8th district campaign for U.S. Congress 1996

By Larry Fuhol

The 8th District was unlike any local race. I had three big obstacles which consisted of running against an incumbent who has been in office for 21 years and who had a huge war chest.

I campaigned against three other candidates which made the 8th district a four way race. I also had to use two weeks of my vacation to obtain 1,000 signatures in order to be placed on the ballot in November. This was a very time consuming chore and I could not have accomplished this without wonderful help from dedicated family and friends.

Despite these obstacles I forged ahead in my campaign. I felt that a good way to meet people and get my name recognized was to enter into local parades in my district. I ended up walking in 21 parades and passing out 20,000 campaign brochures. The parade in which I will always remember was the one in the town of Aurora.

I had my truck decked out with the statue of Liberty, four American flags and a 5 foot Libertarian Party banner. When we reached the area where we were to be there were other politicians and parties already there. There stood Democrat incumbents Jim Oberstar, Paul Wellstone and Hubert Humphrey III, just to name a few. The surprised look upon their faces at seeing the Libertarian Party there was quite comical. I overheard someone in the crowd say where in the world did they come from?"

Several Democrats walked over to my truck and expressed their opinion that they felt I had an impressive float (including Hubert Humphrey III). I felt that I had made an impact on

different events, a high school class in Forest Lake, a class at Cambridge Community College, a church in Elk River, and the Nisswa Jaycees. The one that stands out in my mind as



Larry Fuhol and his LP float

the spectators of the parades regardless if they voted for me or not. My float driver told me "Larry, if they like you or hate you they will remember you." This is the first time a lot of these people have seen something new and different. I think that having a float in parades is a great way to advertise the Libertarian Party. It is inexpensive and you make contact with a lot of people and these people can actually see the physical appearance of the float and other Libertarians passing out information.

I was able to run ads in three different large newspapers and to have commercials aired on three radio stations. In September I was invited to be at our state fair for a citizens forum that Channel 2 television, WCCO radio, and the Star and Tribune were sponsoring. This gave me an opportunity to share the stage with all the candidates that were running for the same seat that I was. I was also invited to speak at four

being the most successful speech was the Nisswa Jaycees as they responded with a standing ovation.

Another opportunity that my campaign offered me was to appear on channel 9 in Bemidji. I had positive feedback from the broadcaster that night. He told me it was nice to listen to someone new instead of the same old stale garbage.

When the final election results came in, I ended up with 3,688 votes, which amounted to 1.3%. The Reform Party 8th District candidate, Stan (The Man) Estes pulled in 16,639 votes. I can't help but believe that he had a lot of help reaching that number because of the help of billionaire Ross Perot who advertised on TV the last two weeks before the election.

In my opinion, if Harry Browne would have had the resources to advertise on TV in the last critical two weeks before the election the Libertarian Party would have received 5% of the vote total, or better.

Campaign Reform: Less Is Better

By Rich Osness

It's no surprise that one of the hottest topics of the day is campaign finance reform. We are surrounded by questionable behavior on both the state and national level.

The President has apparently been renting out the Lincoln bedroom at rates that would make a Tokyo hotel drool. The Reform Party Presidential candidate wants to increase public financing of political campaigns after denigrating public financing in 1992. The Governor has suggested changing a political contribution reporting law that he wasn't following anyway.

Even the U.S. Speaker of the House has been accused of teaching a political science course that was (ahem) political.

To deflect the criticism brought about by these revelations, the key participants will propose a host of new campaign restrictions and more public financing. Public financing means tax dollars forcibly taken from you and me to pay for their campaigns and other indulgences. Campaign restrictions mean rules that hinder their challengers more than them. All the while they expect us to overlook the fact that they did not pay any attention to the current laws. In fact, the current laws and public money were proposed and passed because they didn't obey the previous laws.

I have had some recent experience with Minnesota campaign regulation and even campaign regulations within the City of Austin. (Since nobody else was paying much attention to the Austin regulations I didn't bother to find out if

the counties or other cities in my district had their own regulations.) I agree that reform is much needed. The reform that is needed is much different than what has been discussed in the general media. As usual I am in favor of less regulation, not more.

We do not need more rules and restrictions that are largely ignored. It is pointless to have any laws or rules that are not uniformly enforced. This is the normal result of all government regulations. The best will try to play by the rules but may be tripped up by some ambiguous regulation. The worst will ignore the rules that won't be enforced against them.

The real story behind the Lippo affair is not the rate the Lincoln bedroom commands. It is the easing of trade restrictions on Indonesia and other Asian countries, for a price. If politicians have influence and power some of them will sell it. A cynic might believe that politicians want to increase government power simply to expand their inventory of saleable assets. Campaign contributions corrupt politicians only when they have something to sell.

Minnesota has a public subsidy for state office candidates that paid an average of \$10,000 per candidate to 379 state legislature candidates in 1996. In addition we have our Political Contribution Refund program that refunds up to \$50 per eligible voter for political contributions. These two programs funnel millions of tax dollars into the campaigns of state candidates, primarily incumbents. At the same time campaign laws limited me to spending about a

third as much of my own money as each of my two opponents received in tax dollars for their campaigns, another restriction designed to benefit incumbents.

Public financing of campaigns does not result in better government. It results in career bureaucrats masquerading as legislators.

The taxpayers are opposed to public financing of political campaigns. In recent years only 20% have said yes on the presidential campaign financing check off on their federal income tax returns. Four times as many said no. Our legislators need to listen to the citizens and end public financing of political campaigns at the state and national level.

Strict interpretation of Minnesota campaign laws prevents others from doing significant fund raising on a candidate's behalf. As I sat in various homes and offices personally raising campaign funds, it occurred to me that anyone who could not earn money faster at their regular business was either unqualified to work on the state budget or was selling something they shouldn't. State office candidates must record (and presumably furnish to the state if requested) the names of anyone contributing more than \$20. This can have a chilling influence on contributions to a minor party candidate.

There is no reason to expect that new campaign laws will be any less ambiguous or any less preferential to incumbency than the current laws written by the same people. The path to better campaigns and better government is fewer and simpler laws and strict enforcement.

LP of MN internet listserver

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the Minnesota Libertarian list (or the Minnesota Libertarian Discussion List) at any time by sending a message to:

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IRS will use failed modernization as an excuse

By Daniel J. Pilla *

Recent headlines trumpet reports that the IRS Tax Systems Modernization (TSM) program is responsible for wasting billions of dollars over the past ten years.

Since undertaking TSM in 1984, the IRS has spent nearly \$4 billion on computer hardware and software upgrades and telecommunications equipment. The goal was to replace aging equipment to put IRS on the cutting edge of information technology.

Now, newspapers throughout the nation report that the IRS canceled TSM. Assistant commissioner Arthur Gross, the man hired to save TSM, pulled the plug after just ten months. He stated the IRS lacked the "intellectual capital" to do the job.

The bad news is the IRS spent nearly \$4 billion of your dollars on the upgrades. The good news is Congress authorized spending a total of about \$21 billion. By pulling the plug now, American taxpayers are treated to \$17 billion of savings.

Despite the clear implications of a \$4 billion failure, the news media has *misconstrued* the impact of the fiasco. Statements in news articles across the land leave readers with the impression that the IRS is unable to perform its basic functions. For example, an

article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune stated that IRS is now considering "contracting out" the processing of paper tax returns. Gross is quoted as saying the IRS' computers are "dysfunctional."

The implication of these statements—the IRS cannot process returns—is as plain as it false.

To say TSM is a boondoggle is an understatement. The IRS undertook a major project without a basic plan, without clear direction on where it was headed, and without a central authority to guide the project. By the time it did centralize management of the massive scheme, it was too late.

That is not to say, however, the IRS is suddenly unable to perform even basic processing functions. The \$4 billion in computer upgrades did not go down the drain. The IRS got *something* for its money. What it got are significant increases in computer power over what it had prior to the undertaking.

Consider just the basics. The IRS processes about 210 million tax returns every year. 116 million are Individuals tax returns and the rest are business tax returns. It processes about one billion information returns, including Forms W-2 and 1099 and the myriad of other documents transmitting data to the IRS annually. Its computers cross check those documents with tax returns in

search of unreported income, non-filers, math errors and a variety of other things.

The IRS installed optical character recognition equipment in its service centers to eliminate the task of key punching by hand some of the documents it processes. Large businesses are

The IRS would use the system as an enforcement tool to track the moves and behavior of citizens in search of tax cheats.

required to transmit information returns in machine readable format to accomplish the same goal. Citizens can file tax returns electronically through electronic filing centers and even from home with a personal computer. The simplest returns can be filed over the phone using a system called TeleFile.

Regarding the collection of taxes, four of every five dollars collected by the IRS are actually paid to it by businesses through wage withholding and matching payroll taxes. For years, the IRS has used banks as depositories for periodic tax deposits which are in turn reported to the IRS. Recently, the IRS initiated an electronic funds transfer program requiring businesses to make payments to Treasury accounts electronically. The goal is both to play the interest float game

allowing the IRS to collect interest on billions of dollars for an extra day or two and to soften resistance to a cashless society in which all payments are made electronically.

Beyond the basics, the IRS has installed systems and put forth plans to create an "integrated on line resource network." This is a system linking the nation's private and public data bases. The IRS would use the system as an enforcement tool to track the moves and behavior of citizens in search of tax cheats. The system taps records from commercial sources, state and local government agencies, construction contract information, currency and banking reports, data regarding assets and financial transactions from state and local sources, and so on.

Even the most feckless bungler does not undertake a project of such proportions without at least the rudimentary tools necessary to pull it off.

Is this to say the IRS is a model of efficiency and the 'poster boy' for efficacious government agencies? Of course not. The IRS makes mistakes—a lot of them. And too many are made in the processing of data. But in most cases, the computers *are not* to blame. In most cases, the people operating the computers are to blame. Computers can only do what they are told to do and hence, the

old data processing axiom, "garbage in - garbage out."

The classic example is the IRS' computer generated notices. In the latest GAO study it was found that 66 percent of the forty-seven most common notices used to communicate account information employed nonspecific language, unclear references, inconsistent terminology, illogical presentation of material, and insufficient information and guidance to the citizen. This is not a computer problem. This is a programming problem. The GAO reported that while the IRS is fully aware of these problems, it is unwilling to dedicate the time necessary to correct them.

This problem is not new. I identified it in 1986 and the GAO confirmed it in its first study of IRS computer notices in 1988. There, it was found that 48 percent of them were either wrong or incomprehensible. Even today, the problem of erroneous notices ranks *as number four* on the list of the twenty most serious problems faced by taxpayers as compiled by the IRS' own Taxpayer Advocate. "Taxpayer Advocate's Annual Report to Congress," (FY 1996,) December, 1996, page 26.

Our biggest concern in all this should not be that the modernization effort has failed. That should come as no surprise given the parade of

negative reports on the project streaming from the GAO. What is troubling is the very real prospect that the IRS will use that as an excuse to continue its refusal to correct problems it is both aware of and fully capable of correcting.

More than just a hint of this is provided in the Star Tribune article. There it states that the "failure of the modernization effort will mean years of frustration for taxpayers who get into a dispute with the IRS. . . . It is as if we are given "fair warning" that the system is out of control and the IRS can do nothing to stop it. It is as though they said, "Hey, we tried but we can't stop it. You're on your own."

I have said repeatedly computers did not cause the IRS' problems and computers cannot solve them. The problems are systemic. They grow from decades of Congressional non-oversight of the IRS, from years of fostering the "get the money" attitude within the IRS and from years of belief—both within and outside the agency—that the IRS is untouchable and above the law. It is neither; and it is high time we act accordingly.

* Dan Pilla is a nationally recognized tax litigation consultant and author of nine books on dealing with the IRS and taxpayers' rights. His latest book is entitled, *IRS, Taxes and the Beast*.

\$4 billion computer fiasco by the IRS reveals a "powerful but incompetent" agency, say Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC —

Does IRS stand for It's Really Stupid?

That's the question being asked this week after the Internal Revenue Service admitted it spent 11-years and a whopping \$4 billion installing a new computer system that doesn't work.

So the much-feared federal agency will junk the entire multibillion-dollar system — even as its Assistant Commissioner humbly admitted to Congress that the IRS lacks the "intellectual capacity" to do the job right.

"This \$4 billion computer fiasco is just the latest in a long line of IRS blunders, mistakes, and embarrassments," noted Steve Dasbach, the chairman of the Libertarian Party — America's third-largest political party and fiercest critic of the "powerful and arrogant"

IRS.

"Whether it's incorrectly answering taxpayers' questions or sending out bizarrely faulty penalty notices, the IRS has proven itself to be the worst kind of bureaucracy — incredibly powerful but wildly incompetent," he said.

For example, Dasbach noted:

* Nearly half of the 30 million penalty notices the IRS mails out each year are erroneous, according to a study by Money magazine. In one case, because of a computer glitch, a barber in Santa Rosa, California, was notified in 1993 that he owed the agency \$4 billion in back taxes — as were 3,000 other people nationwide.

* IRS employees who answer the agency's toll-free hotline dispense incorrect advice at least 30% of the time,

according to an internal audit.

"Of course, taxpayers who innocently follow the erroneous advice given by bungling IRS experts could end up in jail — or, at the very least, getting one of those incorrect penalty notices," said Dasbach.

* According to the General Accounting Office, the IRS has no idea how it spent 64% of its budget in 1992 (an astonishing \$4.3 billion) — and none of the agency's financial statements from 1992 to 1996 can be verified by GAO auditors.

"An agency that requires American taxpayers to save every scrap of financial paper apparently has shadier accounting practices than the Mafia," said Dasbach.

* **The IRS's managers pressure employees to seize taxpayers' property so they**

can win "merit pay" bonuses, according to testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee. Agents in a San Francisco IRS office even posted a notice on the bulletin board that said: "Seizure fever. Catch it."

"This parade of bureaucratic pratfalls and failures would be funny if it wasn't so serious," said Dasbach. "A minor mistake on the part of an incompetent IRS agent can mean years of legal trouble, seized property, thousands of dollars in court costs, psychological terror, and even jail time for innocent Americans."

"That's why, in an odd way, the news of this \$4 billion dead-on-arrival IRS computer system is good news — it means there's one less powerful, high-tech weapon for the IRS to use to spy on, monitor,

and harass innocent Americans. It's almost worth \$4 billion to keep the IRS in the technological stone age, and keep them off the backs of taxpayers."

But what about the \$4 billion of taxpayers' money that the IRS wasted?

"Handle it like it would be handled in the private sector," suggested Dasbach. "Find out who was responsible for this fiasco, and take them to civil court to recover damages. Whether it was the IRS Commissioner, IRS managers, or the members of Congress who oversaw this project, they should be forced to personally reimburse American taxpayers for the \$4 billion they've wasted."

Maybe that would teach them a lesson."

Call 1-800-788-2660 today!

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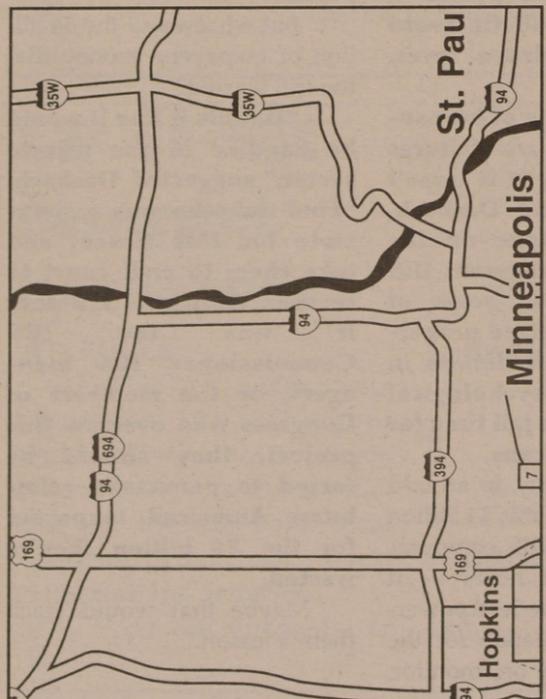
Convention Schedule

Saturday April 19, 1997

- Registration** 8-9 am
- Party business** 9-12 noon
(Platform, endorsements...)
- Lunch** Noon-1 pm
- Chris Wright** 1-2 pm
- Todd Indehar** 2-3 pm
- MN Rep. Kevin Knight** 3-4 pm
- Dr. Mary Ruwart** 4-5 pm
- Social with cash bar** 6-8 pm

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I'd like to join the Libertarian Party of MINN.

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Please do not give out my name, address, or phone
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