

American Libertarian

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Libertarian Party Director Resigns

Houston, TX - In a surprise announcement by LP National Chair Jim Turney sent July 21, it was learned that current LP National Director Perry Willis has resigned for health reasons.

Willis, who was appointed Director by then LP Chair Randy Ver Hagen effective July 1985 and reappointed by Turney in December of 1985, has suffered from chronic mononucleosis for the past several months and has been unable to devote more than a few hours daily to his LP job. His condition became serious in late April. He took off three weeks in May to recuperate.

Turney's announcement, which was included in his July Chair Report, said in part, "He [Willis] has recently learned that the problems are long term. The daily stresses of his job and his illness impair his health and his job performance. Consequently, we have agreed that a new National Director should be found. There is no pre-set termination date for Perry. Applications should be sent directly to my office in Richmond, VA."

Perry informed Turney of the situation the weekend of July 12 and the LP staff was notified of the impending change on July 14. Perry Willis' resignation will become effective when a replacement is chosen. Finance Directory Terry Von Mitchell, who assumed many of Willis' responsibilities during his previous leave of absence, has been named Assistant Director by Turney, (a new position) and his duties will be broadened.

Willis has asked to be considered for a newly created direct mail fundraising consulting contract, which he indicated would be compatible with his health situation. Willis has long emphasized his direct mail experience, stemming in part from his work on the Bergland 1984 presidential campaign. He has offered to "turnkey" the direct mail operations in return for a percentage of the take, similar to the LP's telephone fundraising operation.

This and other fundraising proposals are

major topics at the August 1-3 LP National Committee meeting in Baltimore, in part due to Willis' illness and greatly reduced telephone fundraising revenues. National LP revenues are off by over 40% the past several months, a condition LP Treasurer Sam Treynor has characterized as a "fiscal crisis."

Asked to comment on his resignation, Willis indicated that he hoped this move would help him recover his health and observed that, "for the first time in a long while, the LP will have a smooth and orderly transition in the Director's position."

He believes that job stress contributed to his condition, which results in a lack of strength and lowered resistance to other illnesses. He also believes that his proposed direct mail consulting offer and his availability for advice by the new Director will aid in the transition.

"Something good will happen, if even for unfortunate reasons," Willis remarked, "Because we need a more aggressive direct mail effort than in the past, which I can do even with my illness. This is one more step in the trend towards contracting out the essential services of the party."

Asked if he had any advice for his successor, Willis said, "The most important thing is to take one step at a time. Figure out the most important thing to do and concentrate on getting it done." ■

Milk Price De-control in Montana

by Clifford F. Thies

Clifford Thies is Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance at the University of Baltimore. He was formerly Chair of the Montana Libertarian Party.

Bozeman, MT - Two years ago an initiative to decontrol milk prices in Montana was defeated by a 60 to 40% vote. You'd think this would forever bury decontrol. Not in Montana! Milk price decontrol is back this year. And it looks like a sure thing.

Montana is one of only a handful of states which continues to regulate the retail price of milk. In Montana a gallon of whole white milk cannot be sold for less than \$2.56. This is as much as a dollar more than the price in neighboring non-control states.

Surprisingly, state controls on retail milk prices do not necessarily benefit dairy farmers. This is because higher retail prices

reduce consumer demand. State controls on retail milk prices involve a trade-off for dairy farmers: higher prices versus reduced volume of sales.

According to Ron Johnson, an agricultural economist at Montana State University, the net advantage of state controls on retail milk prices to dairy farmers has greatly diminished in recent years. This is because of advances in interstate transportation, development of ways around state controls, non-price competition, and emergence of dairy farmer cooperatives.

Johnson argues that the trend to decontrol is due to the reduced net advantage of retail price controls to dairy farmers. - and not really because of the consumer interest in decontrol. During the 1960s and 1970s, 11 states lifted their controls on retail milk

prices.

Oddly, in 1982 and in 1984 popular initiatives to decontrol were defeated in Maine and in Montana. Dairy farmers in these two states financed anti-decontrol campaigns which included saturation media advertising.

In Montana, TV ads blamed the decontrol effort on "the libertarian" Jefferson Alliance, and featured a dairy farmer saying decontrol would devastate his business. These ads were quite effective among the agrarian-populist voters of the state.

The next year, at the Montana Libertarian Party state convention, Don Doig, founder of the Jefferson Alliance, talked about the decontrol effort. Libertarians, he said, faced a hard choice in advancing initiatives:

Continued page 2



This first campaign poster for Norma Jean Almodovar's California Lt. Governor race has attracted publicity nationwide. It was reproduced in dozens of papers in July. The former policewoman-turned-call girl is planning two more posters. She notes, "They won't let me be engaged in honest prostitution, so I have to engage in legal prostitution — politics. The difference is that there are some things a prostitute won't do for money."

In this issue:

**Rothbard on
Kochian
Hermeneutics**

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**Vancouver's
Expo 86**

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Illinois/Texas Ballot Drives

Chicago, IL/San Antonio, TX - The two largest Libertarian Party ballot drive efforts for 1986 ended in late July on a mixed but generally positive note. Illinois was able to successfully conclude their effort. Texas, while meeting the signature requirements, was met with an unexpected legal challenge (a new feature in that state's election law) which keeps their ultimate outcome in limbo.

Illinois

Over 30,000 signatures were obtained by July 26 to meet the 25,000 signature requirement in Illinois this year. Curiously, Adlai Stevenson Jr., a Democrat, also had to go the third party route with his New Solidarity Party because of LaRouche candidate victories in the spring Democratic primary which would have required him to run on a ticket with the LaRouchite Lt. Governor candidate.

LP gubernatorial candidate Gary Shilts filed with the Secretary of State in Springfield on July 28, along with other members of the LP ticket. Also running for statewide office are Gerry Walsh (a Roselle Village Board member) for Lt. Governor, Steven I. Givot for Secretary of State, Natalie L. Clark for Attorney General, Donald Morris for Comptroller and Jay D. Marsh for Treasurer. The University of Illinois Trustee candidates are Anne McCracken, Gene Bourke and Stephen N. Nelson. Donald M. Parrish Jr. is running for U.S. Senate.

A 5% vote will be required to maintain party ballot status in 1988, although some confusion exists as to whether any statewide office will qualify or if it is only the governor's race. Ironically, because the Democrats have had to form their own "third party" due to the LaRouchites, they are stuck in the same boat as the LP and may have to petition again in 1988.

State Chair Lyn Tinsley credits Ballot Drive Coordinator Robert Coolidge with doing "a fantastic job" in running this effort, which was financed entirely by the state LP.

The mostly professional effort had 90 days to complete and cost in excess of \$10,000.

"We had fantastic help from libertarian friends across the nation" as a result of two mailings, Tinsley notes, which helped finance the effort.

The LPI has experienced an 82% membership growth in the past twelve months and Tinsley reports that the Shilts campaign effort is attracting a number of radio and TV interviews and he's already participated in 5 parades. "Some of his fundraisers are attracting more people than Stevenson's," Tinsley reports.

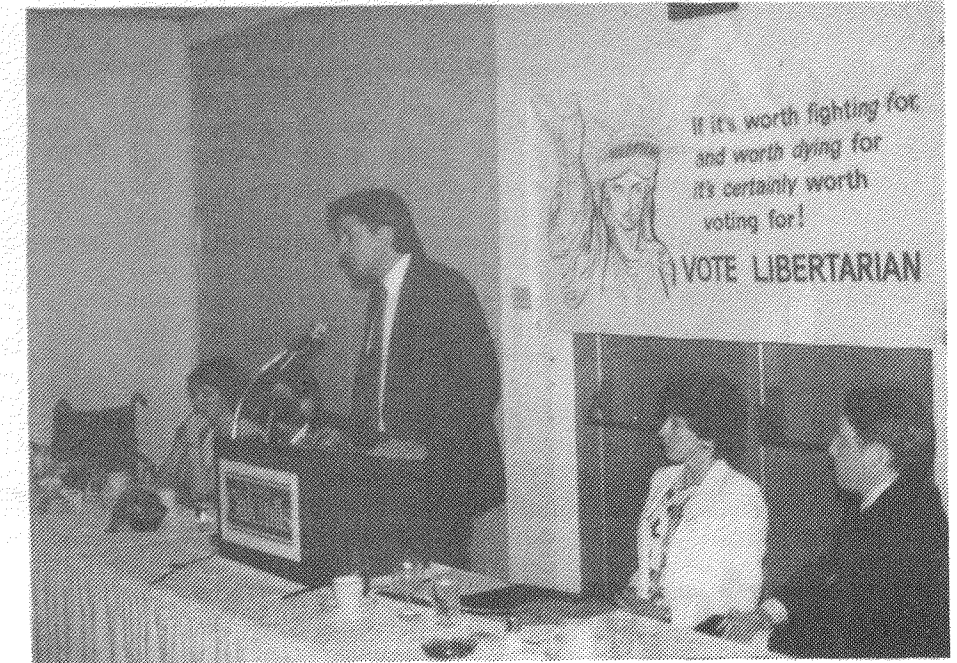
Texas

Frustration is the byword of the 1986 ballot drive for the Libertarian Party of Texas. Initially, the frustration was created over uncertainty of funding for the effort, compounded by the difficult requirements. And, when enough signatures were turned in on July 18 to meet requirements for total signatures and funding from the LP's Ballot Access Committee, a last minute challenge was filed by a Democratic State Representative which puts the outcome in doubt.

Under a newly created provision in Texas law, the LPT had to wait five days under a challenge period before being certified for the ballot. On the last day, Democratic State Representative Orlando Garcia of San Antonio, whose sole election opponent would be LP State Chair Roger Gary, filed such a challenge with the Secretary of State.

According to the government, a 1% random signature sample will be tested for validity, and the results probably won't be known until late August.

Texas LP officials are gearing up for a legal battle, since Texas's requirements for voter registration numbers on petitions and ineligibility of voters who participated in the May Republican and Democratic primaries are serious obstacles to petitioning. Accurate information on either of these criteria is not generally even available to



Jim Turney, National LP Chair, addresses the June Texas LP convention. LPT Director Dianne Pilcher and Chair Roger Gary (foreground) later lobbied him for ballot drive funds.

third parties to verify during their petitioning efforts.

Successful efforts were made in 1980 and 1982 but the Texas LP failed in its "all-volunteer" effort in 1984.

The drive cost in excess of \$30,000 and involved at least 12 professional petitioners and dozens of volunteers.

Its particular importance for the LP is that of the 23 candidates running, three are running statewide unopposed except for the incumbent. A five percent showing in any statewide race will secure LP ballot status for 1988.

Comptroller candidate George Meeks, Treasurer candidate Robert Reid or Supreme Court Justice candidate Wiley Rawlins could readily obtain the needed 5% in their two-way races, according to most libertarian political observers. Additionally, gubernatorial candidate Theresa Doyle of San Antonio is expected to do well as the only female candidate in a hotly contested gubernatorial race.

The Texas effort for ballot status got off to a rocky start when three consecutive monthly state LP Executive Committee meetings early in 1986 failed to firmly decide the ballot drive issue. Only after former Florida LP Director Dianne Pilcher was hired in February as Texas Director and the LPT's main financial debt holder agreed that pursuing ballot status was more important than liquidating his 1984 ballot drive debt, did the state LP leadership decide to take the plunge.

Past successful ballot drives in Texas were centered in Dallas and Houston, but the 1986 effort was focused in San Antonio and led by Pilcher, State Chair Roger Gary and volunteers in Austin, Dallas and Houston. Former national LP Staffers Honey Lanham and Margaret Werry were instrumental in obtaining professional petitioners and technical advice. Local coordinators Alex Snead and Joe Lusardi were key leaders in the volunteer effort.

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Price De-control

From page 1

Libertarians had to choose between radical versus incremental proposals.

Radical proposals would attract hard core supporters who could gather the necessary signatures in a volunteer effort. But, radical proposals might be doomed to failure at the polls.

Incremental proposals, on the other hand, might win at the polls. But, who would have the enthusiasm to gather the necessary signatures for free, and who would be willing to pay for the expenses of others who would gather the necessary signatures for reimbursement?

What Doig didn't know at the time was that the failed effort of 1984 proved to be a learning experience for Montana libertarians. Now knowing exactly what were the possibilities involved in advancing initiatives, many libertarians were able to accept incremental proposals for their strategic advantages.

Late last year, Steve MacGregor, a Montana libertarian, started the ball rolling with a letter to the editor of the Bozeman newspaper calling for a renewed milk price decontrol effort. In a strange turn of events, he was called by a person associated with DairyGold, a dairy farmer cooperative which wholesales about 25% of the milk in Montana.

MacGregor was told that many dairy farmers were not opposed to decontrol of retail milk prices, but wished to maintain

state controls over producer milk prices. The dairy farmers of DairyGold, in fact, would welcome decontrol of retail milk prices since this would mean higher demand.

Further more, these dairy farmers would contribute the life-blood of modern politics, money, to an initiative campaign decontrolling retail milk prices but leaving state controls on producer milk prices.

For libertarians, leaving state controls on producer milk prices involves the mildest of political compromises. This is because, under federal law, dairy farmers can petition the U.S. Department of Agriculture for re-control of producer milk prices after states de-control. In other words, if dairy farmers want producer price controls there's nothing that libertarians can do about it anyway.

MacGregor agreed to partial decontrol, organized the Consumer Committee to Decontrol Milk Prices in Montana, drew up the initiative, and began collecting signatures. 18,949 signatures were needed to qualify the initiative for the November ballot.

The biggest roadblock was a dirty tricks campaign which MacGregor believes was waged by MeadowGold, a division of the giant Beatrice corporation, which wholesales about 50% of the milk in Montana.

Some unknown persons called managers at post offices, K-Mart's, and other locations where MacGregor and his crews set up, and said they were customers who were harassed by signature gatherers. This is curious, since libertarians and others who

sponsor initiatives had never before been so accused, except on an isolated basis.

The interest of MeadowGold in continued retail milk price controls is obvious. By setting minimum retail milk prices the state government guarantees the profit margins of wholesalers.

By late July MacGregor had managed to collect over 20,600 signatures and the measure was certified for the ballot by the Secretary of State. MeadowGold is very worried about this proposal and is considering possible legal action to knock it off the ballot. However, that is a desperate and risky action which could backfire badly, and isn't considered a major threat to the effort.

In the meantime, MacGregor has arranged for a milk price survey of neighboring states to be conducted by MontPRIG, a Naderite Montana-based "public interest research group" which usually champions liberal-left-consumerist causes.

Unlike the past unsuccessful efforts, the current campaign has been effective in reaching out to new allies — farmers, consumerists, and populists, — who were not supportive in 1984. This new coalition-building is another result of the libertarian shift in tactics on this issue.

The 1986 Montana milk price decontrol effort is evidence of the maturity, pragmatism and persistence of contemporary libertarians. By focusing on what is possible and making the most strategic of political compromises, MacGregor is going to actually decontrol retail milk prices in Montana this year.

His success is sure to win qualified friends for liberty among dairy farmers and low-income consumers as well as expand on the credibility of Montana libertarians. ■

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Alaska Update Randolph

Anchorage, AK - Libertarian-turned-Republican Dick Randolph's forces are still confident of victory in that state's crowded 9-way GOP gubernatorial primary, although recent polls show him trailing behind three other leading Republicans.

Described as "one of the most interesting candidates" in a May *New York Times* article on the race, Randolph came in fourth in a straw poll taken at the Republican state convention this spring.

Former State House speaker Joe Hayes appears to be leading, with state Senator Arlis Sturgulewski and banker Bob Richards also leading the controversial libertarian candidate. Also clouding the field was the last minute "hat-into-the-ring" by former Governor and Nixonian Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel.

Randolph's forces are not daunted by the challenge, however. "We welcome Hinkel into the battle," said Randolph's campaign manager Duncan Scott in a recent interview with the *American Libertarian*. "His votes will cut into the other Chamber of Commerce type candidates, not ours."

"Dick is campaigning full time as a Republican," Scott reports, "and is the only major candidate who is a non-millionaire." The state's contribution ceilings "definitely help" the millionaire candidates, Scott notes, "but we've raised \$225,000 (as of June 9) and expect to more than double that by August 26 primary deadline."

One factor expected to help Randolph is the state's open primary system, particularly since 53% of the state's voters are not registered with a political party. "Dick's LP experience is not an issue, according to our polls," Scott said, "since the polls say that they vote for the person, not the party."

While Randolph led in some early spring polls, most show him running third or



fourth at the moment. "But they also show that Dick's support is the most hard core," Scott adds, "which will be very important as the race heats up and candidate loyalties are tested. We figure that it will take about 30,000 votes to win the primary and Dick received about 29,000 in his 1982 gubernatorial race running as a Libertarian. That and his high profile on the Tundra rebellion issue and other popular referenda in the recent past should help him a lot."

Hayes, Sturgulewski and Hickel are considered his biggest challengers, although according to Scott, Randolph's campaign fundraising is "competitive with the others." A self-imposed TV quota system is expected to even out the odds, although some reports indicate that his major opponents have begun their TV efforts several weeks earlier than Randolph.

"We have more than 1000 contributors, with only a small fraction from out of state," Scott reports, "although we did raise in the low five figures from our mailings to the 'lower 48'."

Libertarian Party State Representative Andre Marrou questions this optimism on the part of the Randolph campaign, observing that "their campaign apparently had to fire their media advisor in May due to lack of money. He was the same guy who did my commercials in 1984 and is considered one of the best in the state. Not exactly a sign of success."



Dick Randolph, Alaska's libertarian Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Randolph Odds

Anchorage, AK - Despite word from some quarters in Alaska that the Randolph campaign is in trouble, a positive note was struck in the July 3 issue of the *Fairbanks News Miner*.

According to their report, unnamed "professional oddsmakers" in Anchorage have handicapped the primary races and Randolph's chances are given as "3 to 1 and steady." While that doesn't sound too hopeful, all the other major GOP contenders are estimated far worse, from 6 to 1 all the way to 30 to 1. According to the political bookies at least, Randolph's chances are twice as good as anyone else's in the crowded race. ■

Marrou claims that there are signs that the Randolph effort is "starting to unravel" and is sticking to his prediction that only 20-33% of the state's Libertarian Party supporters will vote for Randolph in the primary. "Dick and I both had fundraisers in the small town of Sterling within two weeks of each other, and Randolph had 10 people show up. I had 20. That must say something."

Marrou has been highly critical of the Randolph effort since Randolph announced his party switch last August. Marrou says this violated a Randolph promise to stay in the LP and possibly run on the LP ticket for governor in 1990.

Duncan Scott, however, remains optimistic and says that the major issues of the campaign, the economy and jobs, and declining oil revenues for the state government, will help the Randolph effort. "Dick has long been publically critical of the state's 'priming the pump' in the economy, and it's now coming back to haunt Alaskans. Dick has been known for his support of private business enterprise, which sounds particularly good now that oil tax revenues have been slashed." Scott concludes, "The other candidates are basically saying the Chamber of Commerce line of 'spend, spend, spend' by government or are advocating an alliance of big corporations and government to solve our problems." He figures that Randolph's views are more in tune with the average Alaskan voter.

Randolph's opponents are definitely taking him seriously, as evidenced by a recent story in the *Anchorage Times*. According to the paper, Randolph was the target of "an organized attempt to show him up by rival Joe Hayes at the year's first debate." There was a concerted effort to barrage Randolph with questions submitted by campaign staffers and supporters of opponent Hayes. These dirty trick-type tactics indicate Randolph is not being taken lightly.

Those interested in more information about the Randolph campaign or in contributing to his effort can contact: **Randolph for Governor, Box 100239, Anchorage, AK 99510, (907) 276-1530.** ■

The ALP

Homer, AK - Despite the attention given to former LP member Dick Randolph in his race this year, Alaska LP Chair Gene Hawkridge says that the ALP "is stronger than ever" and cites a steady rise in ALP registration since such registration was first allowed in mid-1983.

Hawkridge termed the current slate of ALP candidates "the broadest ever, though not the longest." Broadest because for the first time ever, the party is running someone for U.S. Senate, in addition to Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Congress, State Senate and State House.

In the last four general elections the ALP fielded 30 different candidates for the legislature in 33 races, winning four including a re-election. LP candidates received over 30% of the vote in four elections (excluding the four wins) and over 20% in 10 other races.

At the May 9-12 ALP Convention in Fairbanks, the mood was described as "upbeat" with many new faces as well as some oldtimers returning. LP News editor Karl Hess was a featured speaker, and attendance was about the same as in 1985.

Eight people were nominated for various offices. Ed Hoch (pronounced hoke) an engineer who recently resigned from the Fairbanks/North Star Borough, was nominated for Governor, replacing Mary O'Brannon who had earlier been the front runner. O'Brannon lost a \$50,000 judgment against her for selling yellow pages advertising without publishing one, and reportedly left the state in the wake of the judgment and for medical reasons. Hoch originally filed for Lt. Governor but is now running an enthusiastic gubernatorial campaign. Hoch ran for State House in 1980 and received 22% of the vote.

Hoch Publicity

Fairbanks, AK - Although LP gubernatorial contender Ed Hoch is not predicting victory, he is garnering his share of publicity. He's participating in a number of televised forums and has had favorable stories about his campaign appear in papers in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Homer. His charge (true) that the state has the most expensive government bureaucracy in the country has been widely repeated. ■

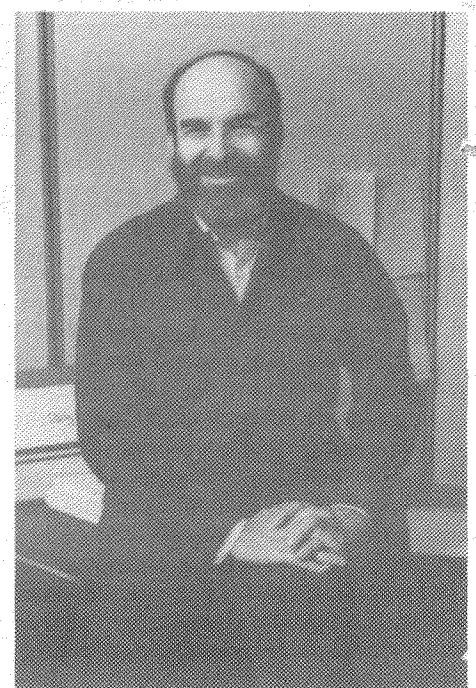
The other ALP candidates are Allergra Barnes, of Anchorage for Lt. Governor, LP NatCom representative Chuck House of Fairbanks for U.S. Senate, Betty Breck of Palmer for U.S. Congress, and Jacob Levine of Anchorage for State Senate. Running for State House are incumbent Representative Andre Marrou of Homer, John McArthur and Stephen Pidgeon, both of Anchorage.

Alaska's premier LP member, incumbent Andre Marrou, has kept a busy schedule with recent speaking engagements in Oregon, at the April state LP Convention, at the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Roundtable Forum, and at the April 15 Tax Protest day march in Anchorage. There he was interviewed by two TV stations, two radio stations and both major papers. He also spoke at the Center for Market Alternatives in Caldwell, ID in June.

The only draft group in the state raised \$1000 for Marrou's up-coming campaign in March, and by early June he had raised over \$5000, well ahead of the same point in 1984, when he challenged the Republican incumbent.

Marrou feels his chances for re-election are "very good" but he's not resting easy. He's been out campaigning door-to-door since early June.

"The state party is doing fine," Marrou



Alaska Libertarian State Rep. Andre Marrou



recently observed, "although Randolph's defection obviously did hurt some." But, he adds, "many Republicans are mad at Randolph because they don't know whether he's really a Libertarian or a Republican."

At any rate, Marrou believes he has the edge this year, providing fundraising holds up, because he has been "at least as effective any anyone in the minority" in the Alaska House.

He helped defeat a mandatory seat belt law and firecracker ban, and had several amendments to bills passed as well.

In fact, he introduced 75 bills in his two sessions, a fact which has drawn him criticism. "I said I would sponsor any bill my constituents wanted provided I didn't believe they would do harm" and was true to his word, Marrou responds.

While several of his measures made it partially through House and Senate committees, only one, a "good samaritan" measure for Emergency Medical Technicians, actually passed both houses.

As Chair of the ALP candidate recruitment committee, he has also been trying to develop other libertarian leaders. "I want to avoid building a cult of personality, unlike some other Alaska Libertarians I can think of," Marrou observed.

Contributions for his House race are welcomed, and can be sent to **Andre Marrou for Alaska House, Box 2336, Homer, AK 99603.** ■

Passages

Libertarian activist **Ron Heaton** of South Carolina was killed in a tragic automobile accident in late July, according to reports. Ron's brother John is the current SC LP Chair and the Heaton's have been among the most effective libertarian activists in the nation. RIP.

On a much happier note, **Daniel Kenneth Evers** arrived on July 7, much to the delight of his proud parents **Bill Evers** and **Mary Gingell** (Mrs. Evers). Bill and Mary have been active in the libertarian movement for many years and between them have at one time or another held nearly all the significant leadership posts in the LP and related activities. Bill is completing his doctoral thesis at Stanford on freedom of the press. Daniel Evers' birth announcement card shows him "goo-gooing" through the pages of **Man, Economy and State**. Start 'em early. . . ■

Libertarian Outlook

People's Democracy

Curiously enough, almost all totalitarian nations and dictatorships hold elections. People show up to vote (often under threat of punishment if they don't) and pseudo campaigns are conducted, the results are solemnly announced and celebrated by the inevitable and predictable winners.

What distinguishes these farces from actual democracy is the fact that the only candidates one can vote for are hand-picked and government-certified in advance.

But according to ballot law expert Richard Winger, this "people's democracy" style of rubber stamp elections is quickly becoming a reality in the U.S.

Now, some libertarians shun and disdain the entire political process. But few can afford to completely ignore it. And regardless of the merits of political action per se, all libertarians should be concerned over this rapid erosion of political freedom. It is only a slight step from having two government supported (and similar) political parties in the U.S. (guess who?) to having only one Worker's Party, People's Party, Communist Party, or whatever.

In fact in many states and for many offices, only one government supported U.S. political organization bothers to run candidates. Third parties struggle and often fail to obtain ballot status.

It is something of a tribute to the power of libertarian ideas that in its brief 15-year existence the fledgling Libertarian Party is now far and away the largest and best organized "third party", far out-distancing its older and better-funded competition. Many libertarians, though usually profoundly anti-political in many respects, have concluded that the only peaceful way to effect change is through the political process with their own party.

A few libertarians have simply given up

and conceded that the only political action of any merit is through one of the two government sponsored parties. Each of which receives millions of dollars in direct and indirect tax subsidies every election via outright grants, tax sponsored primaries, special legal exemptions for ballot status, and so forth. Even loony LaRouche and his hard-eyed cultists with their millions have largely abandoned the alternative party route.

Libertarians, then, are faced with a choice. Engage in political action or not. But if political action is chosen, how to proceed? Can we effectively influence either government supported party with our tiny numbers? Perhaps.

Or, do libertarians face extinction in the wake of ever increasing and difficult obstacles to ballot access and direct electoral participation?

Even non-libertarians should be concerned over the fact that the LP seems to be the only political opposition of any real distinction which has survived as a third party. This is democracy?

And if democratic political participation isn't allowed for those of us with non "government issue" ideas, then the course of our future political change is bleak indeed. If you repress peaceful political change and bottle it up, you inevitably get something much worse. Just look at South Africa's P.W. Botha or the little Polish general in the dark glasses.

Libertarians should be sensitive to this issue. Even if politics isn't your cup of tea. Government controlled elections isn't democracy. And until the great "withering away" of the State occurs (or perhaps, contracting it out of business), if it isn't a true democracy, it's going to be something a whole lot worse. ■

Feedback



Letters Policy

Letters are accepted provided they carry the author's name and address. A phone number should be included for verification purposes only. Letters should be kept short and

are subject to editing. Send to: Feedback, American Libertarian, 21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450.

Take Over the GOP? No Thanks!

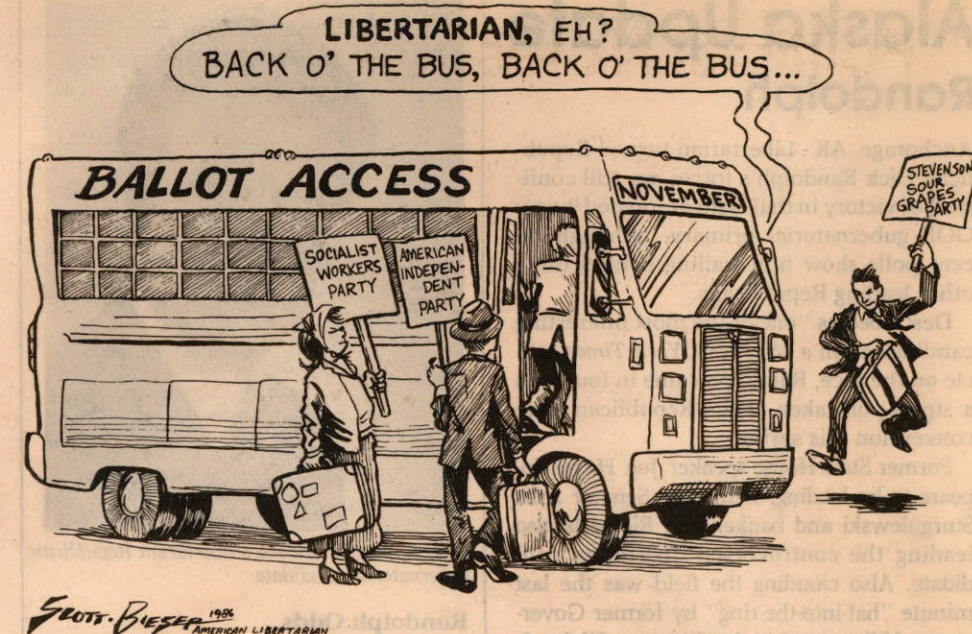
When the growth of the Libertarian Party failed to satisfy the yearning of some of its more restless members for a Quick Victory fix, many of them began to look for other short cuts. A number of opportunists, defeated at the 1983 presidential convention of the LP, have decided to shift to the Republican Party. Most of these new-found Republicans and quasi-Reaganites have never cared very much for peace or civil liberties, undoubtedly the areas where the Republicans are glaringly furthest from libertarian principles. So it now comes as an amusing and bizarre twist that the old three-man Revolutionary Tendency of the Radical Caucus of the LP, (allegedly dedicated to peace and civil liberties) have not only decided to enter the Republican Party, but also urge the rest of us to join them. Now that the old RT has invited us all to discuss

and debate their plan, the time has come for a resounding "No" and "Buzz Off!" in response.

First, a word on who these people are. This crew consists of three individuals from the San Francisco area: Justin Raimondo, theoretician and writer; Eric Garriss, organizer; and Colin Hunter, financier. These three have now issued an open letter to the movement: "Third Party Politics Reconsidered", unsigned but certainly the hand of Raimondo is evident ("RC to LP: Join GOP," July 86 AL)

Long famous for their ultra-r-revolutionary sloganeering, the Raimondo-Garriss-Hunter (RGH) clique came to the 1983 LP convention pledged to Bergland for president, and then, at the strategic moment, jumped ship and received high posts in the losing Ravenal-for-President campaign. Apart from the morality of this enterprise, it is surely politically and tactically unwise to betray one's word in order to jump on to the losing side. After that, the RGH clique decided that the Libertarian Party and movement needed unity of all factions, and announced the establishment of a monthly magazine, *The Libertarian Outlook*, to provide such unity. The first issue appeared in August, 1985, and the long-promised second monthly issue has not yet been seen. One may be pardoned for coming to the conclusion that this trio is (a) unstable, (b) losers.

In calling for us all to follow their mighty trumpet blast and join the Republican Par-



Notable Quotes

On the Utah LP/Polygamist alliance:

"It's kind of hard to be a Libertarian and not be a lawbreaker."

Bob Waldrop, Utah LP Chair

"You cannot legislate people into heaven."

Salt Lake County Sheriff LP candidate and admitted polygamist Royston Potter

On the libertarian movement:

"[it's] a very creative force in American politics. . . In some ways, they're more left than right."

Michael Kinsley, Washington Editor of the *The New Republic*, in the *Los Angeles Times*, June 25

In Case You've Forgotten Who Benefits From Inflation:

"This time I discovered the illusionary revenue windfalls owing to continued double-digit inflation. When I substituted a rapid decline in inflation, the Democrats' spending promises resulted in plenty of red

ink."

From *The Triumph of Politics* by David Stockman.

The Do-As-I-Say Department

"Yet Congress has given itself special status in the application of several laws that regulate the work environment in the private sector and in other government agencies. The Civil Rights Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational Labor Safety and Health Act, the Privacy Act, among others, treat Congress differently from, say General Motors."

The Wall St. Journal, June 2, 1986

From a recent interview with feminist author Rita Mae Brown, who was once kicked out of NOW for pushing lesbian rights:

"The answer is that you solve these problems yourself. I'm sort of a self-help person. I'm a person who loathes the government and doesn't want it in my life."

Houston Post, June 1, 1986 ■

American Libertarian

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Political Notes



East Greenbush, NY - New York LP Chair and NatCom representative William McMillen announced in June his intention to run for U.S. Congress in New York's 24th district. He will

have to collect 3,500 signatures to get on the ballot.

The 43-year old Ressler accountant is challenging Republican Gerald Solomon, and interventionist foreign policy and military spending are McMillen's main issues.

Undaunted by a downpour, his opening press conference held in a shopping center parking lot attracted one reporter and a TV cameraman.

Boise, ID - C.L. "Butch" Otter won nomination for Lt. Governor in Idaho and he has been publicly tagged with the small-l libertarian label while in the state legislature. He claims he disagrees with libertarians on the national scale, his main disagreement being over national defense.

Otter was called a libertarian while opposing victimless crimes measures while in the State House, and is regarded as one of the wave of "new libertarian" Republicans.

Otter is the son-in-law of J. R. Simpolot, the billionaire Idaho potato magnate who supplies all of MacDonald's french fries.

Sacramento, CA - Californian LP gubernatorial candidate Joe Furig may not be attracting the attention that his running mate Norma Jean Almodovar is, but he is running perhaps the most hard core campaign in the nation.

He was drafted to run at the February convention, which he notes "is an oddity for Libertarians" and says that if elected, he promises to spend only one day a week in Sacramento, vetoing bills. He says he won't accept a salary, would pardon those convicted of victimless crimes and would also pardon tax law offenders.

"Pardoning tax offenders would have the effect of making tax-paying voluntary in this state," he explains, "all state agencies would have to become competitive, and Libertarians like to expose institutions to competitive pressure."

Furig is an economics professor and hopes to keep his "Traveling Capitalism Show" on the road while campaigning.

Austin, TX - Some Ayn Rand followers have carried their apparent displeasure with libertarians to bizarre extremes. The University of Texas Objectivist Club for instance, has only one group excluded from membership according to their rules: members of the Libertarian Party and libertarian sympathizers (how can they tell?). Presumably, collectivist child molesters and followers of Immanuel Kant are still welcome. . .

Fargo, SD - Republican congressional primary winner Dale Bell won an impressive 45% to 28% victory over his nearest opponent despite public accusations that he was really Libertarian instead of a Republican.

This stems in part from his prior stand on Ron Paul's congressional staff and the fact that Paul signed a nationwide fundraising letter for Bell's campaign. Both his major opponent and the State's Attorney General accused Bell of being an LP member.

This accusation was denied by Bell himself and Spencer Nesson, SDLP Chair.

Ron Paul said that SD news media called and tried to get him to label Bell a libertarian, which Paul refused to do. "Bell knows the issues and is very sympathetic"

but doesn't claim to be a libertarian, and "may have a tough time staying out of trouble if he's pressured politically on the issues" if elected.

Chicago, IL - At their annual meeting the American Medical Association warned against the rising "glut" of new doctors and entry of foreign trained doctors into the U.S. They called for government action to cut back on the supply of new doctors.

Incredibly, they claimed increasing the supply of doctors would raise (not lower) costs for medical service because (hold on now...) the additional doctors would be forced into specialties and would then be able to charge patients more.

This display of special interest arrogance and economic ignorance was an attempt to convince the public that placing a stethoscope around one's neck somehow exempts them from the workings of the laws of supply and demand.

"Quick, someone! Call an economist!"

Augusta, ME - In the recent June primary, Maine voters overwhelmingly voted to defeat a referendum which would have provided jail terms for sellers of pornography.

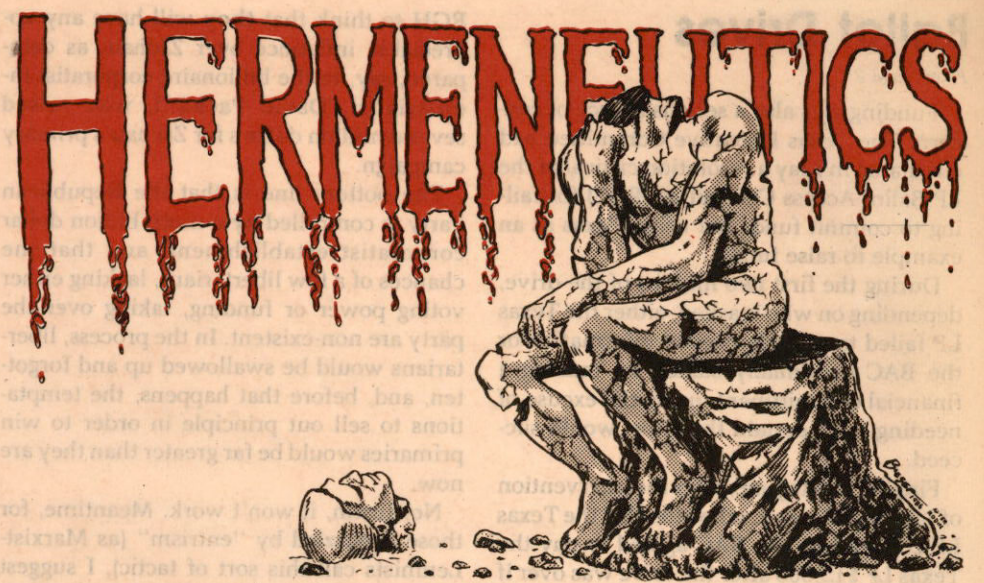
The measure went down to defeat by a 70% to 30% margin.

Portland, OR - Backers of Oregon's marijuana initiative turned in over 87,000 signatures in early July to put a pot decriminalization measure on the state's ballot in November. LP Chair Turney was on hand at a major press conference to publicize the effort. The measure would legalize home-grown marijuana for personal use.

Indianapolis, IN - The Indiana LP lost its legal bid to overturn the Hoosier state's primary laws because state legislation requires a 10% general election vote to qualify for such a primary. U.S. District Judge James Noland denied an LP motion which had put the 11 Congressional primary races in jeopardy in early May. The case remains to be heard in full however. Previous Indiana LP legal actions, along with the ACLU, have challenged other aspects of state law which in effect, subsidizes two political parties with license plate sales funds.

Washington, D.C. - Senator Dale Bumpers, D-AR was responsible for killing a proposed amendment to the tax reform legislation now pending which would have formally established tax amnesty for those who have not paid prior years income taxes. In return for payment of back taxes, interest and penalties, taxpayers would have been protected from criminal prosecution.

Bumpers claimed that the amendment would have been "unfair to honest taxpayers" and would promote an "erosion of confidence in our tax code" (he said this with a straight face, incidently). The IRS claims the no-criminal-sanction rule is their unofficial policy but does not want the so-called policy made into binding law. ■



The New Kochian Economics: The Hermeneutical Twist

by Murray N. Rothbard

Murray Rothbard is the S.J. Hall Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He is a well known author on a wide variety of libertarian-oriented subjects and is sometimes referred to as "Mr. Libertarian".

This is a fast-moving world. The headlong descent of the once-mighty, once-vaunted "Kochtopus", its flight from hard-core libertarianism and into "respectability" and sellout, has recently taken its most bizarre twist to date: the murky world of Continental European nihilism.

But first, a brief history for those new to the saga. In 1977, Charles Koch, near-billionaire oil man from Wichita, later aided by his brother David, established the powerful and (relatively) well funded "Kochtopus", with tentacles dominating every aspect of the libertarian movement. The center of the web was the Cato Institute, then based in San Francisco, and headed by Koch's chief satrap, Edward H. Crane III. With the help of a central core, led by Crane, the Kochtopus also dominated the Libertarian Party, through the "Crane Machine", and established *Libertarian Review*; *Inquiry*, an outreach bi-weekly; Students for a Libertarian Society (SLS), a tiny but extravagantly funded movement; and the Council for a Competitive Economy (CCE), a hard-core, free-market lobbying group. From 1977 to 1979, the Kochtopusian commitment was to hard-core libertarianism in politics and the Austrian (i.e. Misesian) economics, meaning not only laissez-faire, but hard-core individualist methodology, "Praxeology".

In 1979, the Kochtopus started its flight from hard-coreness, in all areas, first (1979-80) swinging leftward into "low-tax liberalism" and, then, with the advent of Ronnie Reagan, swinging dramatically to the right. Cato has repaired to Washington, where it acts like any other Reaganite think

tank, with a few small nods in the direction of Austrianism, and, once in a while, a few peeps on behalf of (moderate) non-intervention in foreign policy. Meanwhile, all the former Kochian institutions that had a taint or image or radicalism or leftishness have been killed: *Inquiry*, *Libertarian Review*, SLS.

But the Crane Machine's descent into opportunism and rush to statism has been more than outpaced by the new Fair-Haired Boy of The Kochtopus, one Richard Fink. Fink definitely replaced Crane as the Grand Vizier of the Kochtopus. In activism, the old hard-core CCE was killed and merged into a new Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE), headed by Fink, as a lobbying and think tank organization. CSE makes no pretense about liberty or non-intervention; it is simply straight Reaganite, having their leaders' (including the Kochs') pictures taken with top Reaganites at every photo-opportunity, and proclaiming their devotion to the flat tax and other Reaganite schemes. Recently CSE has gone to the length of joining C-PAC, the overall political action arm of a raft of openly conservative organizations.

But here, we wish to focus on the academic, Austrian Economics realm of the new Finktopus, son of Kochtopus. This the Center for the Study of Market Processes, (CMP) at George Mason University, an allegedly Austrian group founded, and still led by the same Richard Fink, who clings to his George Mason position as part-time researcher.

Mises Had To Go

On the Austrian front, CSE has led many of the Koch-led Austrians in a Long March away from Ludwig von Mises. The reason is not difficult to find. Ludwig von Mises, in his person, his politics, and his methodology, was the very soul, the epitome of Hardcoreness. His personal lovability and charm did not prevent him from being, in his work, an unabashedly

Continued page 6

Keeping Up with the Joneses?

And the Clarks, the Tryons, the Pauls,

the Rothbards, the Berglands, The Cranes,

the Randolphs, the Jacobs, the Givots, the Dodges

the Nolans, the Konkins, the Hesses, the Marrous, the Lewises...?

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Ballot Drives

From page 2

Funding was also a serious source of concern. The Texas Executive Committee had circulated in May a resolution critical of the LP Ballot Access Committee (BAC) for failing to commit funds but using Texas as an example to raise funds.

During the first two months of the drive, depending on who is asked, either the Texas LP failed to provide needed information or the BAC continually stalled on making a financial commitment, using the excuse of needing to be certain the effort would succeed.

Finally, in late June, after the intervention of LP Chair Turney, who attended the Texas LP convention, the BAC agreed to pay the Texas LP \$15,000 after the drive was over if they were successful or if 38,400 signatures were obtained.

According to LP sources, this retroactive funding approach was never used in the past and in fact, resulted in no funding during the actual Texas ballot drive itself. However, in early July an agreement was hammered out and approved by the BAC. Promptly after the required signatures were turned in, the BAC sent the \$15,000 to Texas.

Former LP Director Lanham termed this approach "bureaucracy run amok" and said it resulted in considerable frustration. Texas LP Director Diane Pilcher indicated that the \$15,000 was greatly appreciated, but was critical of the BAC's insistence of the guaranteed success. "I can see their point," she said, "but these efforts are never certain until they're over. It put us in a difficult situation regarding paying our petitioners during the drive."

Some of the petitioners earned up to \$3,000 but most were not completely paid off until after the drive was over.

Texas LP leadership met in a special Executive meeting in Austin on July 27 to map strategy and consider legal options. This heartbreaking frustration after the long and difficult effort has angered many Texas libertarians. The celebratory champagne has been put back on ice and the legal research is just beginning. ■

Feedback GOP? No!

From page 4

Paul." (Particularly amusing since RGH were in the forefront, back in their LP days, in denouncing Ron Paul as a reactionary.) At any rate, what did they think happened to Ron Paul? Ron is no longer in Congress because, despite his considerable support in Texas and around the country, he lost badly in the GOP Senatorial nomination contest in 1984. As the only authentic Republican quasi-libertarian of prominence, Ron Paul's fate should be enough of a warning to anyone tempted to go the GOP route.

All this, of course, has been tried before. There is nothing new in the idea of battling within, and taking over, the Republican Party. Many of us left the Republican Party years ago, having learned our lessons. During the 1970's, Joe Gentili of Brooklyn, organized the mighty Libertarian-Republican Alliance. Where are they now?

The only success RGH can point to is the victory of Ed Zschau in the California Senate Republican primary. It is true that Zschau is more libertarian (or, rather, less un-libertarian) than his numerous rivals in the California primary. But, first, Zschau's victory was a fluke, and hardly a trendsetter, since Zschau won with a plurality, far from a majority, over a number of ultra-conservative rivals. And second, and more important, it is an absurd pipedream for

RGH to think that they will have any appreciable influence over Zschau, as compared, say, to the billionaire corporatist industrialist, David Packard, who raised several million dollars for Zschau's primary campaign.

The bottom line is that the Republican Party is controlled by a multi-billion dollar corporatist establishment, and that the chances of a few libertarians, lacking either voting power or funding, taking over the party are non-existent. In the process, libertarians would be swallowed up and forgotten, and, before that happens, the temptations to sell out principle in order to win primaries would be far greater than they are now.

No, Justin, it won't work. Meantime, for those bedazzled by "entrism" (as Marxist-Leninists call this sort of tactic), I suggest that, instead, you try to take over the Democratic Party. The Democrats are confused, demoralized, and they are far less monolithically devoted to war and the crushing of civil liberties than are the Republicans. Hell, even the LaRouchies, as nutty as they are, have been able to win some important Democrat primaries. So, if I can find two other guys. . . .

Murray N. Rothbard
New York, NY

A reply from RGH is expected in the next issue.
Ed. ■

The New Kochian Economics

From page 5

militant and uncompromising adherent of laissez-faire, liberty and the absolute truth of economic law. He was therefore generally termed "intransigent", "dogmatic", "doctrinaire", hard-to-get-along-with. In short, **not** the sort of person who would ever adopt the Washington rule of "go along to get along." Not the sort of person to waffle in order to obtain respectability, short-run political influence, or greater funding. **Never** the sort of person to sell out.

So Ludwig von Mises would never fly in the new-increasingly soft and mushy-cored Kochtopus. He "alienated too many people." "Too uncompromising," etc. And so Mises had to go.

For many years now, the Kochian Austrians have led a parade away from Mises. Not too openly, of course, because Mises still has many devoted adherents and supporters. Just don't talk about him. Talk about Hayek, who is the soul of fuzzy-mindedness, and who has endorsed enough government intervention to provide lots of room for "dialogue" in the Corridors of Power in Washington. Or, talk about muzzy types like Henri Bergson.

In the last year or two, the Finkian CMP has gone All the Way. The "Simps" have now enthusiastically embraced the muzzy-minded Continental horror known as hermeneutics. So far have they gone that the CMP, for years leading those Austrians who strongly refused to set up either a scholarly Austrian journal or a scholarly society on the brave grounds that "it would make us too much of a target," has now established the Society for Interpretive Economics (SIE). On March 28, the CMP-SIE held a conference on "Interpretation, Human Agency, and Economics" at George Mason, and all the leading Austrian graduate students in the country were flown in at Finktopusian expense to hear the New Dispensation. ("Interpretation" is a code word for Hermeneutics.) Fortunately, the students reacted in virtually unanimous horror. Speaking at the conference were director, and main guru for the Hermeneutical Turn, Don Lavoie; Jack High, at least nominal director of the CMP; Ludwig

Lachmann, veteran nihilist and hermeneutician from NYU and South Africa; and Richard Ebeling, ex-Misesian from the University of Dallas, as well as a few hermeneutical philosophers.

In the old days, "hermeneutics" simply meant the discipline of interpreting the Bible. The meaning has been changed during the twentieth century, largely by the German philosopher Martin Heidegger, his student and top disciple Hans-Georg Gadamer, and by French nihilists Paul Ricoeur and Michel Foucault. It has swept everything before it in the field of literary criticism in the form of "deconstructionism" headed by the Yale English faculty, and has penetrated deeply in such "soft" human sciences as philosophy, sociology, political science, and even history, and now the Simps hope to catch the wave of the future in economics.

Randian-Style Villains

The best way to think of this murky and vicious crew is that they all talk and write like villains in a Randian novel. "There is no reality", "every man creates his own reality", "There is no truth", and other arrogantly nihilist stances. Except there is a big difference. Randian villains, for all their villainy, proclaimed their rotten views with clarity and precision. The hermeneuticians, whether in literature or philosophy, are a fetid bog, a miasma of jargon-ridden incoherence. There can be no style worse than the incomprehensible thicket of hermeneutical prose. If, as I believe, the style reflects the thought, and if clarity and lucidity are to be cherished, then we know how to treat hermeneutics. So tangled is the kitchen-midden of hermeneutical writings that most philosophers I know simply refuse, and understandably so, to read it. They dismiss it, quite rightly, as "garbage", but unfortunately, if no brave, rational soul is ever willing to take on the task of detailed refutation, it might grow and attract people for its very obscurantism. The definitive word on all such gabble was written by H.L. Mencken in his classic demolition of Thorstein Veblen, in a sense an early hermeneutician and an institutionalist opponent of economic law. What was remarkable about Veblen's ideas, Mencken wrote:

was the astoundingly grandiose and rococo manner of their statement, the almost unbelievable tediousness and flatulence of the gifted headmaster's prose, his unprecedented talent for saying nothing in an august and heroic manner. . .

Marx, I daresay, had said a good deal of it long before him, and what Marx overlooked had been said over and over again by his heirs and assigns. But Marx, at this business, labored under a technical handicap; he wrote in German, a language he actually understood. Prof. Veblen submitted himself to no such disadvantage. Though born, I believe, in these States, and resident here all his life, he achieved the effect, perhaps without employing the means, of thinking in some unearthly foreign language — say Swahili, Sumerian or Old Bulgarian — and then painfully clawing his thoughts into a copious and uncertain but book-learned English. The result was a style that affected the higher cerebral centers like a constant roll of subway expresses. The second result was a sort of bewildered numbness of the senses, as before some fabulous and unearthly marvel. And the third result, if I make no mistake, was the celebrity of the professor as a Great Thinker. (H.L. Mencken, "Professor Veblen", A Mencken Chrestomathy New York: Knopf, 1949, p. 270.)

Indeed, one of the hermeneutician's great heroes is Karl Marx. As Professor Barry Smith, an English philosopher and adherent of Austrian economics, pointed out at the Simp hermeneutics conference, every leading hermeneutician has been a collectivist. No question about that. In fact, on the Continent, hermeneutics arose in the twentieth century as a fallback position for Marxists. Since no one could defend the labor theory of value or their "classical" Marxist tenets any more, the new, "hermeneutical" Marxists declared that the important point is that there is no truth, there is no economic law. Therefore, what counts is every man's interpretation which creates reality, and which is a matter of personal esthetics. Our personal esthetics tells us that capitalism is unlovely, and that socialism will be beautiful. So, go for it! And if there is no truth or economic law, that means there is no bulwark from which to resist the State. Martin Heidegger, the father of hermeneutics, found it easy to become an enthusiastic Nazi once the Nazi regime had been established.

If there is no moral or economic law, what then is the Simp argument against statism? Only one: that no one knows anything, and that government knows even less. Somehow, this strikes me as an awfully weak reed to use in the defense of liberty.

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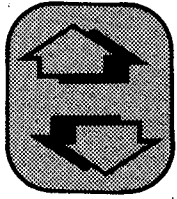
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In Review



A Libertarian Look at Expo '86 by R.W. Bradford

Bill Bradford is a long-time libertarian and publishes an investment newsletter, **The Bradford Report**, from Port Townsend, WA.

Mass tourist events have never held much charm for me. There is something about a huge crowd, armed with cameras, dark glasses, bawling babies and blank looks that frightens me.

But Expo '86 in Vancouver was ballyhooed to be more than another tourist spectacle. I was just sufficiently enamored with visions of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, the London Exposition in 1850, the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892, that I agreed to attend Expo '86 when my wife invited me.

When I arrived at my hotel in Vancouver at 10 a.m. I was greeted by a prostitute offering me her services. My second day there, the papers headlined that the British Columbian Supreme Court had ruled that although prostitution was legal, it was perfectly legal and constitutional to prohibit hookers from offering their services.

As I walked to my car after checking out the third day, I noted a couple of cops harassing (and maybe arresting) a hooker. When I got to my car, I noticed someone had stolen its side mirror. Thank God, the cops are busy suppressing vice. . . losing my car's mirror is a small price to pay so future visitors can visit Expo without having their moral purity challenged by hookers.

The theme of Expo '86 is advertised as "Transportation and Communication," but practically every pavilion seemed to feature either a travelogue designed to attract tourists or perhaps a few sample locomotives.

Videos Everywhere

The first pavilion I visited (after a 20 minute wait) was Australia's. Once inside, we were herded through a series of rooms with video screens. Each would show us TV ads about Australia, followed by 5 minute films on why we should visit Australia. Whoopee.

It proved to be the rule rather than the exception. Most pavilions offered one or another sort of video show urging us to visit the land they represented. The videos ranged from the TV spots the Aussies ran to short films of the sort one might watch on public

television. Some jazzed up the travelogues a bit, usually with lasers, sometimes with dreary multi-media shows. Occasionally with a live entertainer.

In most, one simply stood and watched the show. A few encouraged sitting. Most had long rails, like hitching posts, to keep the standers in long neat orderly rows.

The pavilions with shows were far and away the most popular with fairgoers, for reasons I cannot discern.

Some pavilions were engaged in selling merchandise: featuring examples of transport from their country. Others were little more than glorified giftshops.

But there were some exhibits that should not be missed:

The Peru exhibit put on no shows; thus it was not thronged. But it did feature a remarkable display of Inca artifacts. I was much impressed by the gold work — interesting but more skilled than I had expected. It also contained a small selection of Inca artifacts depicting human sexuality graphically enough that their possession would be a criminal offense in many times and places. Thank God for the perverts who have risked imprisonment and torture, preserving the artifacts for future generations.

As entertainment, the 3-D movie at the Canada Place pavilion was simply astounding. The image was projected in polarized light on a wide screen, and viewed with polarized glasses. As usual in 3-D films, the director chose a variety of scenes designed to use the 3-D image to full effect. . . birds flying, swords lunging from the screen, etc.

But no matter. The result was lifelike beyond any film I have ever experienced. When a robotic arm picked up an egg and turned toward the audience, I knew what was coming. But when it suddenly cracked the egg, I quickly moved my legs to avoid getting a lapful of raw egg. So did everyone else in the theatre.

But the best show of all was much more modest: General Motors presented a short live action show about the vital importance of freedom of travel, combining dance, Indian folklore and a remarkable method of projecting images by laser onto smoke.

Cars and Cuban Machinery

One could see all sorts of cars, ranging from the most exciting hi-tech wonders to the world's worst. The Japanese and GM both provided looks at what they have on the drawing boards, and examples of amazing new technologies like ceramic engine parts and on-board computers.

The Germans, French, Koreans, Malaysians and Italians also had cars, but the most interesting were the products of Eastern Europe. At long last, I saw an actual model of the Yugo, famous as the worst car sold in North America. It was not the worst car at Expo, however. That honor goes to an exotic piece of junk from Romania, with some extraordinary touches as a windshield wiper (no 3 inches in diameter).

Cuba provided the most boring pavilion. A small gift shop at its entrance offered cigars for \$10 and tiny cigars for \$5. I was tempted, but held back not wanting to commit a felony violation by acquiring such contraband, and moved into the main chamber to sit on the concrete floor awaiting the show. In the center of the room stood a steel pole, with shelves sticking out at various heights, on which sat several slide projectors and a jungle of wires. There were film screens on the walls.

In a few minutes the show began. And what a show it was: slide after slide after slide of huge pieces of machinery, railroad cars and ships. On and on it went. Slides of cargo containers projected on the wall across from me, on the wall to my left, on the wall to my right. Slides, slides and more slides. More pictures of cargo holds on ships

than anyone could possibly want to see.

The funniest pavilion was the Soviet Union's. After waiting through a long snaking line to enter the second floor of the huge building, I immediately saw a long counter with a huge sign offering "Information". There were no signs of human life at the counter: no people, no leaflets, nothing. The huge pavilion was filled with a huge map of the Soviet Union, criss-crossed with flashing lights representing railroads, highways and air routes.

Around the periphery were banks of four video monitors with video recorders. Most played tapes about the success of Russian heavy industry and transport, but several explained the Soviet desire for peace, and one showed Russian music videos (as bad as they sound). Most of the groups of Soviet-made monitors had only one or two still working. The fair was only in its sixth day.



"Transportation and communication is the nominal theme of Expo. . . A better rendering might be 'How the Governments of the world are providing large scale solutions to every problem you face, and if you keep supporting them, all will be fine'."

Russians were almost everywhere. At least, middle-aged nerds wearing well made but unimaginative suits speaking to one another in a slavish tongue were everywhere. Never once did I see a Russian speak to a fairgoer. It was easy to image that they were all KGB.

Along one wall I spied a sign saying "Fashion Show" with an arrow. This was too good to miss. I followed the arrow into a movie theater, where another sign listed times for "Fashion Show", "Feature Film" and "Stereofilm". There were no more fashion shows; the next show was a "Stereofilm" to begin in a half hour.

I noticed a man in a grey suit putting cardboard polarized glasses on the chairs and realized that "stereofilm" was a 3-D film. The seats looked soft and I was tired after a day of standing in lines, so I sat down. Shortly a young man who I had noticed watching Soviet music videos earlier sat down next to me and struck up a conversation. He was a Polish immigrant to Canada, who worked as a cook in a Greek restaurant and liked "heavy metal". He liked the videos about as well as I did, and told me that he had visited Russia in search of its rock music a couple of years ago. His main impression was that Russian rock stars wear gross amounts of makeup.

Then the film began. If on a scale of 1 to 10, the Canada Place 3-D movie was a 10, then this was a minus five.

The film was apparently a documentary about animal life on some sort of Arctic

shore, featuring especially sea lions. I say "apparently" because every word of the soundtrack and every credit was completely in Russian. It was reminiscent of those awful "educational" movies I was forced to watch back in grade school in the 1950's, except it was mostly out of focus. The theatre was quite full and practically no one left as the film droned on. Did these people stay because they were afraid the KGB guys would take their names and wreak terrible vengeance? Did everyone but me speak Russian? Were they all engrossed by the film? Or were they all simply as tired as I? **Nerds and Rubes**

As I bade fond farewell to the Russian pavilion, I felt a sympathy with the poor Russians in their grey suits: no matter how hard they try, everyone still recognizes them as nerds. They realize that no matter how superficially friendly a Westerner may

act, deep down the Westerner views the Russian as a backward clod. No wonder they only speak to each other.

"Transportation and Communication" is the nominal theme of Expo, but it would be hard to infer from the pavilions. A better rendering of the theme might be, "How the governments of the world are providing large scale solutions to every problem you face, and if you just keep supporting them, all will be fine. . ."

Expo '86 is to the contemporary world what the circuses were to the Ancient Roman world. It entertains the rubes at great expense, while convincing them their patience, pliability and support for state enterprise will be rewarded. This was particularly true of the dreadful Canadian pavilions. The Canadian National Railways pavilion actually presented a multi-media defense of its government granted monopoly.

International Expositions have come a long way since Emperor Pedro of Brazil was thrilled by Alexander Graham Bell's demonstration of the telephone at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. Once they were showcases of modern technology and material progress. Today they have more in common with Disneyland than anything else, and consciously so.

Despite the long lines, the government propaganda and the glitz, Expo had its moments. Even today I sometimes think I would like to return to see the Soviet fashion show. . . ■

Economics

From page 6

After all, government can also "interpret" and make its own reality.

So what is the attraction of this nonsense for the Kochtopus? Why is hermeneutics the New Kochian Economics? My guess is that it has been sold to Koch as incredibly "non-threatening." Unlike Mises, the Simps can never be accused of doctrinaire dogmatism (except for the dogmatic view that there is no truth.) Their proclaimed strategy is Dialogue With Everyone, (except with Misesian dogmatists, of course.) Since there is no truth, everyone may as well engage in endless dialogue with everyone else. (But if all truth is subjective to each individual, why bother with dialogue?) And because hermeneutics is indeed the latest fad in the fast disintegrating discipline of the philosophy of science. So there you have it: softcoreness to the point of imbecility, the latest respectable fad, endless non-threatening dialogue with everyone except Misesians and libertarians. What More Could the Kochtopus Want? ■

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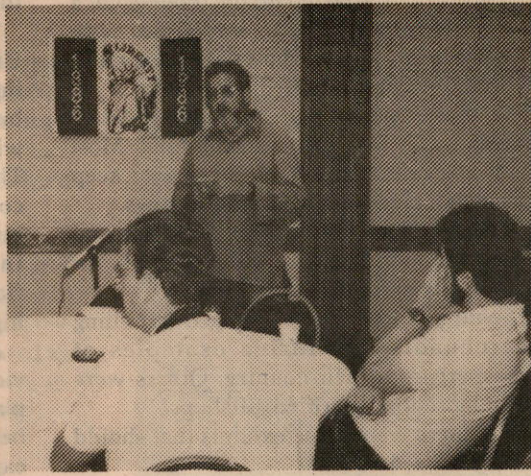
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Society for Individual Liberty (SIL) Co-director David Walter awards libertarian draft resister Paul Jacob the 1986 SIL Phoenix Award at the April Illinois Convention.



Former National Chair Alicia Clark verifies voter registration numbers for the Texas ballot drive during a break at their convention. Her banquet speech emphasized the importance of local leadership and organization.



LP News editor Karl Hess speaks at a libertarian cocktail party in New Haven, CT on June 28. Photo by Tom Ross.



1984 LP Vice Presidential candidate Jim Lewis samples 'Sam Adams' brand beer (from New Hampshire) at a July 4th picnic. Murray Rothbard was awarded a six-pack at the May Connecticut LP convention - "to an old revolutionary." Photo by Tom Ross.

Swedish Lib Conference Set

Stockholm, Sweden - The Libertarian International organization is hosting their third World Conference in Stockholm on August 21-27.

Titled "The Welfare Society vs. The Welfare State", the week long conference is devoted to investigating private, voluntary alternatives to the welfare state.

Featured speakers include Robert Poole Jr. of the Reason Foundation, Swedish economists Sven Rydensett and Ingmar Stohl, Karl Hess, Leonard Liggio, Tibor Michan, Dagny Sharon, Joan Kennedy Taylor and Anne Wortham. A special panel "The Free Market Foundation of South Africa" in both of the Free Market Foundation of Southern Africa and outspoken critics of South African government policies.

Registration, including meals, accommodations and banquets, costs \$395. Registrations should be sent to **Libertarian International, 9 Belmont Ave., Richmond, VA 23221.**

Media Watch



Bits and Pieces...

From around the nation - The Reno Gazette Journal editorialized that "Third parties deserve easier ballot access" in a June piece in the wake of a court suit overturning

that state's petitioning requirements. New York LP Communications Director **John Chodes** was featured in a lengthy op-ed piece in the *New York Tribune* in mid-June on the theme "The Arts as Propaganda: Soviets Do It... We Do It." on the issue of government funding of the arts.

Conservative columnist **James J. Kilpatrick** had some kind words about the "libertarian doctrine" of tolerating cultural diversity (such as Statue of Liberty souvenir schlock) in a July column on the subject of diversity and equality.

The Little Rock, AR *Arkansas Democrat* thundered down and out about LPer **Alan Lindsay's** recent announcement of candidacy for Congress, taking him for to task for admitting that he didn't have much of a chance to win. They also managed to get in a knock at **Paul Jacobs**. My, my... they must be getting worried in Arkansas about something...

And the July 4 *Houston Post* carried an excellent op-ed piece by LPer **Jeff Daiell** on the theme of liberty vs. government, and

the meaning of the American Revolution.

Reason Goes Hollywood

Santa Monica, CA - The Reason Foundation, which currently publishes a well respected magazine and airs its "Perspective on the Economy" radio show in more than 170 stations, is moving into TV production.

It is helping to fund a six-part series titled "The New Enlightenment" focusing on the rebirth of liberal individualism. It will first be aired in Britain and Reason president **Robert Poole, Jr.** is trying to line up air time on public television in the U.S.

Garvin Ousted

Managua, Nicaragua - Former *Inquiry* magazine editor and current *Washington Times* reporter **Glen Garvin**, and a freelance photographer, were expelled from the war zone and "showed sympathy to the counterrevolution."

Statism Kills

New York, NY - An early July column in the *Wall Street Journal* by **R.J. Rummel** confirmed what most libertarians already know: that government is the biggest scourge of mankind. According to Rummel's research, governments of all kinds (though principally communist) have killed 119 million people in the twentieth century. The second runner up, war (also sponsored by governments, usually) has killed "only" 35.7 million.

Anyone for "LiberAid" to raise funds to stamp out this deadly plague?

Not All It's Cracked Up To Be

Orange, CA - In the rising tide of anti-drug hysteria (this month's favorite horror: cocaine) a refreshing July 3 *USA Today* column by **Jeff Rigenbach** took issue with the standard propaganda calling for more repression to deal with what are essentially health matters. Rigenbach targeted the "Drug Abuse Industrial Complex" as the principal culprits in fanning the flames of misinformation on the subject.

SIL Survey

Warminster, PA - The July *Individual Liberty*, published by SIL, contains the results of an extensive survey (103 responses) of readers about a variety of libertarian subjects. The poll is oriented towards judging the effectiveness and prospects of various libertarian institutions and organizations. *Reason* magazine and the LP get knocked fairly hard, although they are the most visible and active representatives of their respective functions. It is not too surprising that they also receive the most criticism.

Libertarians as Conservatives

Arlington, VA - Former conservative direct mail guru and current columnist **Richard Viguerie** once again is lumping libertarians

in with conservatives in an early July nationally syndicated column. He describes libertarians as one of the five groups making up the conservative movement. After the past two decades, this is undoubtedly news to both libertarians and conservatives. The other groups he names are traditionalists, populists, democratists (i.e. - American imperialists) and dynamists. The latter category, which Viguerie seems to favor, is some kind of pro-technology category (i.e. Star Wars and supply-side economics) and supposedly includes **Arthur Laffer** and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Include us out, as the saying goes...

Kingmaker Poole?

Santa Monica, CA - A June 25 *L.A. Times* article reported that **Robert Poole Jr.** is cutting a wide swath in bi-partisan political circles.

The story reports that Poole "has briefed Democrats as well as Republicans, including having input to a potential 1988 presidential candidate."

Declining to name names, Poole said, "I can say that somebody who's very close to one of those 'new ideas' Democrats has gotten memos from me and I sat down and briefed some Southern California free-

enterprise Democrats on a couple of occasions."

Poole went on to add, "We don't have any particular reason to feed ideas only to Republicans. I'm very happy to try to feed good ideas to top people who might be in power in the next 20 years. I'm not sure they all know who we are and I'm not sure if they really care. We like to think of ourselves [at the Reason Foundation] as idea brokers." ■

Coming Attractions

Is The LP In Trouble? AL Takes a Look...

Exclusive Interview With Notorious Norma Jean

Libertarian Satellite Broadcasting

Marshall Fritz And His Advocates

Bergland Reviews Schwartz's "Libertarianism: The Perversion Of Liberty"

Plus Media Watch, Political Notes, Feedback, Photos and Cartoons...

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