

# American Libertarian

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## Ballot Access Priority at Orlando NatCom

Orlando, FL - Setting the 1988 Libertarian Party budget was the main item of business at the December 5-6 Libertarian National Committee (LNC) meeting held at the Park Inn International in Orlando.

And the LP's two favorite subjects — moving the national headquarters and arguing over the computer system — seem to be more or less laid to rest finally in action taken at the meeting.

Rumors flew during the pre-convention hospitality reception given by the Florida LP (samples: Jim Turney won't run for LP Chair again; the Ballot Access Committee will be dissolved) although the main business agenda was fairly routine.

LNC members enjoyed the good Florida weather and hospitality provided by local host Ralph Swanson and Florida LP Chair Charles Manhart. The Florida LP also held a fundraising banquet and a State Executive Committee meeting in conjunction with the LNC meeting.

The meeting itself demonstrated that while the heavy-handed factionalism of Turney's first administration is largely gone, no one individual or group dominates the LNC. Numerous divided votes revealed that Turney's leadership mandate clearly has limits. Turney loyalists, remnant Bergland faction members, the Ron Paul campaign group, and even such loosely defined blocks as the "midwestern caucus" all competed for votes. In the end, no single force appeared to dominate.

The LP headquarters issue was finally decided early in the meeting when Turney's Chair report included an elaborate slide show on the new DC headquarters. The office, which will initially be the upper two floors of an inner city townhouse (about 1400 sq. ft.), will cost about \$1,200 per month including utilities. California LP Chair and LNC delegate Mark Hinkle — a vocal critic of Turney's in the past — moved that the LP break the recently signed 3-year lease in order to reduce expenses for overhead and increase ballot access funding. Newly appointed Ballot Access Committee chair Burt Blumert (also Paul Cam-

paign Committee chair) complained that the recent hq site selection was a "rushed decision" in light of changes from the original proposal. Turney responded that "the main complaint I've heard is that I'm going too slow." After discussion the motion to stop the DC move failed on a voice vote.

Turney also emphasized the primacy of the 1988 ballot access effort in his report, a prophetic endorsement, as it turned out.

LP Treasurer Clifford Thies came under quick fire after he indicated that he had no prepared financial statements, although a new computer ledger system was being installed. Thies also proposed that a \$2,000 settlement offer from the FEC over fines for late financial reports in 1987 be accepted, albeit reluctantly. This passed unanimously.

The other longstanding LP issue, the headquarters computer, was partially resolved earlier this year when two IBM AT computers were purchased to replace the aging Data General. What went unresolved was the outstanding obligations to the Liberty Services partnership, which owned the old system. Don Ernsberger, who had done extensive research into this issue, reported that 19 of the 22 Liberty Services limited partners had been contacted (three were not located) and 85% of them agreed to turn over any financial interest in the old system, when sold, to the LP. This reduced the outstanding liability from \$18,000 to around \$2,750. Due to the LP's new ownership position, \$5,950 was approved as an estimated account receivable as a result of anticipated proceeds from the sale of the old system. Liberty Services general partner Craig Franklin came under fire for failing to deal with the LP in good faith in recent negotiations, including an admission from LNC member Melinda Pillsbury-Foster (who is also Mrs. Craig Franklin) that even she couldn't get an "appointment with Craig to talk about this matter, even though we live under the same roof."

Despite past problems, assuming things go as planned, the Liberty Services computer matter may at last be over.

Plans for future national conventions were discussed, including a move to pin down a site by next summer to ensure good hotel bookings in major convention cities. Chicago is making a definite pitch for the 1991 presidential convention, while later in the meeting an unspecified location near Valley Forge, PA was chosen for the 1989 convention site. SIL leaders Don Ernsberger, David Walter and Pennsylvania LP activist Linda Paustian were announced as the 1989 convention committee, and "Proclaim Liberty" and the Liberty Bell were specified as the convention slogan and



LP officers in Orlando grappled with headquarters move, computers, budgets and 1988 plans. (From left) Secretary Dean Ahmad, LP Chair Jim Turney, Vice Chair David Walter, and National Director Paul Jacob.

theme respectively.

Former Ballot Access Committee chair Steve Fielder discussed petitioning progress, and changes in his committee (see related stories elsewhere in this issue). About \$300,000-\$400,000 gross expenditures are anticipated for a successful 50 state ballot access effort, netting about half for actual petitioning and legal costs. The BAC raised about \$60,000 in 1987, spend \$39,000 on ballot access petitioning and had about \$7,500 in the bank as of early December.

## Blumert Takes Charge of BAC

Shepherdstown, WV - In a surprise development West Virginia attorney Steve Fielder resigned as Chair from the Libertarian Party's Ballot Access Committee (BAC) on October 31 and was immediately replaced by Ron Paul campaign Chair Bert Blumert, subject to the consent of the Libertarian National Committee. And according to a mid-November report by Fielder, one of Blumert's first actions was to hire Fielder as a full time BAC National Ballot Drive Coordinator at a salary of \$2,000 per month.

At that salary, this makes Fielder the highest paid employee of any Libertarian Party organization, according to LP records. Although the BAC is subject to the overall control of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), it is formally a "self-funded action committee" (SFAC) which has separate fundraising and accounting authority and enjoys considerable operational and financial autonomy from the regular LP chain of command. The BAC was the first SFAC authorized in late 1985 and has been under Fielder's chairmanship since inception.

Newly appointed BAC chair Bert Blumert promised to begin with 10 days with direct mail and telephone fundraising efforts, and said "a fifty state ballot commitment depends entirely on how much money can be raised." He promised to give it priority in the Paul campaign and asked each LNC member to personally raise \$2,000. His BAC chair appointment was ratified by the LNC.

LP Finance Committee chair Paul Kunberger then moved to allocate any excess funds raised in December 1987 to ballot

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(The LP has authorized its Advertising Development Committee as another SFAC—so far the only other one.)

This development comes as a surprise to most LP members and LNC members since it was not widely discussed in advance at the September LNC meetings nor was it publicized in party organs. It also marks the first time an LP subcommittee chair subsequently became a hired employee of that subcommittee.

However, in previous reports to the LNC Fielder had complained about the time-consuming duties of the unpaid BAC Chair and had been advertising for several months for a paid BAC Coordinator. According to Fielder's November memo, his duties will include recruiting and supervising petitioners, coordinating BAC efforts with the Paul campaign and state LP organizations, preparing reports, overseeing fundraising and maintaining the BAC database of contributors. The BAC is also expanding its membership, with proposed additions of

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## Ballot Access Priority at Orlando NatCom

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access, later amended by Steve Givot to a ceiling of \$15,000 "subject to repayment," provided such funds were raised above budgeted levels.

This soon led to what some called the Sam Treynor "neutron bomb" substitute motion, which would have left walls standing but no people. This called for sending all funds in excess of that needed for basic services to the ballot access effort. This drastic move would have eliminated the National Director's salary and probably halted the move to DC, although the precise impact wasn't clear. In fact in the heated discussion which followed, the first of continued assaults on the LP budget for ballot access purposes, most members lost sight of the fact that the substitute motion would only apply to one month — December 1987, even if passed. This measure lost heavily in a roll call vote, 17 to 8 against (the Paul campaign and Berglandista factions in favor), but the original main motions by Kunberger and Givot later passed on a voice vote.

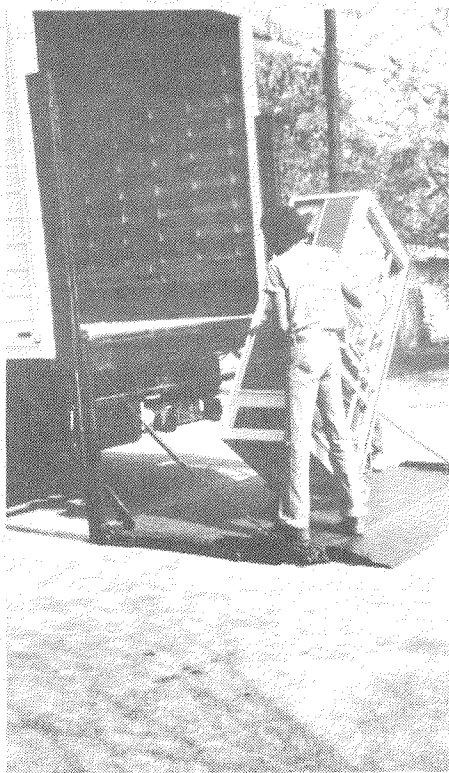
Kunberger also discussed general fundraising plans, implicitly criticizing past efforts. His own report was long on generalities but short on specific plans or numbers. He also suggested the idea of obtaining an agreement to issue so-called "cause" VISA or Mastercard charge cards to members, from which the LP would receive regular commission income. These programs have been successful with other issue-oriented groups with large memberships. The LNC approved further investigation into this proposal and Kunberger was also ratified as Finance Committee chair.

Ruth Bennett, who headed the Convention Services Group (CSG) which hosted the Seattle LP convention, was then invited to make a presentation asking reimbursement for \$900 in convention printing and secretarial costs and \$8,200 in convention media costs (paid by CSG to Tonie Nathan). She claimed this was owed under the unsigned contract for the convention with the LP. She maintained that there was "offer and acceptance" of the contract, despite that fact that she refused three times to sign several contract versions presented to CSG by the LP Convention Oversight Committee prior to the Seattle convention. However, she did offer to negotiate the amount due, and Turney appointed Don Ernsberger, Peggy Jeney and Matt Monroe, (who was also on the original Oversight Committee) to an *ad hoc* committee.

This committee reported back the following morning and offered to settle for \$2,900, although Monroe dissented from this proposal. Bennett made several threats to sue if the matter wasn't negotiated to her satisfaction, Monroe claimed, and this amounted to blackmail.

The matter was debated extensively (Lew Rockwell claimed "this simply rewards outrageous behavior outrageously!") but most LNC members appeared to favor compromise, despite the lack of a signed contract, due to overall satisfaction with the outcome of the convention itself. A 15 to 9 roll call vote approved a settlement up to \$2,901.78, subject to receipt of certain documentation from CSG. Now that the existence of a contract has been affirmed, several original Convention Oversight Committee members are investigating Bennett's performance on other sections of the contract, which they believe may also have bearing on any final settlement.

Tonie Nathan then discussed her proposal for a \$30,000 Media Relations Committee



The old LP Data General computer is finally shipped out from LP headquarters.

budget, based upon her efforts at the Seattle convention and subsequently. However, some LNC members were not pleased with her recent press releases, including several which were issued without pre-clearance. One in particular waffled on the issue of the Bork Supreme Court nomination, despite the fact that the Seattle convention passed a resolution opposing Bork.

Ernsberger then presented a lengthy report analyzing press clippings and other news coverage which concluded that while wire service media coverage of the convention was a product of Nathan's efforts, "no measurable results" were evident from the other convention or post-convention publicity efforts by Nathan's Media Outreach Committee. Budget discussions were postponed until Sunday.

Steve Dasbach discussed Campaign '88, which included a plan for a candidate workshop (also to be videotaped) at the upcoming spring LNC meeting.

The Saturday fundraising banquet netted the Florida ballot drive several hundred dollars, and several NatCom members also sampled the pleasures of the Saints & Sinners Bar at the hotel. Sinners appeared to outnumber saints in an atmosphere one NatComer likened to the smokey extraterrestrial bar in *Star Wars*. Instead of the usual collection of forlorn salesmen stuck for the weekend, this little hotel had a jam-packed club scene which made the other "libertarian party" seem tame.

On Sunday, the next three NatCom meetings were set for Indianapolis (April), San Mateo/San Francisco (August) possibly in conjunction with a FIFE conference featuring Andre Marrou and Russell Means, and tentatively, Oklahoma City (December). A plea from Turney to postpone the next meeting and donate the unspent travel funds towards ballot access was defeated.

However, the main business of the budget did not similarly neglect ballot access. Kunberger and Turney had hammered out a budget of \$334,000, slightly above the estimated \$325,000 gross income of 1987. However, a motion from Sam Treynor supported by Mark Hinkle and Melinda Pillsbury-Foster structured the discussion in such a way that Turney and Kunberger

were forced to defend increases over 1987 amounts and new line items in the budget in ten different areas. This caused the budget to come under attack, since the proposal also required any items not specifically increased to go to the ballot access effort.

This brought forth a lengthy process of discussion, and the overall budget was eventually reduced to \$328,000.

In a series of heated votes, eventually \$37,000 (about 11%) of the original proposed budget was redirected to ballot access. Cuts came from software consulting (\$2,500), two additional issues of *LP News* (\$12,000), Campaign '88 (\$2,000), the Outreach Committee (\$3,000), an item labeled "Chair expenses" (\$10,000), officer travel (\$700) and penalties (\$1,000). The Internal Education Committee budget was increased to \$1,200 to fund the *Activist Network News*, and other Outreach Committee expenses were limited to funds raised specifically for that purpose. Cuts were defeated in the areas of staff payroll and membership prospecting.

Most of the items cut were new to the budget or substantial increases over 1987. But it did not mitigate the unhappiness expressed by Turney, Kunberger and others about re-directing funds from the originally budgeted areas. At one point Turney was requested to turn over his gavel to Vice Chair David Walter since he was engaging in debate. He did so only grudgingly.

At one point outside the meeting room, Steve Fielder (who was uncharacteristically quiet at the meeting) was heard arguing with Paul Kunberger. The LP Finance chair was heard cursing his former comrade-in-arms for "looting the LP" in favor of ballot access.

In fact, Kunberger was so upset about the re-direction of funds to ballot access that at one point he threatened Paul campaign manager Nadia Hayes (who was attending the meeting as an observer) with "dismantling the BAC" in return for the "Paul campaign raid" on the LP budget.

Hayes, who does not intimidate easily, in turn told Kunberger that any attempted power plays could cut the LP off from all Paul campaign help, including ballot drives, mailing lists, and other support. Turney rushed up and tried to smooth things over. Kunberger later circulated a proposed motion to dismantle the BAC (which is technically a "self-funded action committee" that enjoys considerable autonomy from LNC oversight) during the meeting on Sunday afternoon with the idea of folding it back into LNC operations. The argument he made was: if the LNC is going to be directly



Ruth Bennett of Convention Services Group pleads her case for more money from the LNC.

funding ballot drives via the BAC, why not eliminate the middleman?

In the past the LNC has budgeted heavily for ballot drives, particularly in 1984 when the entire effort was originally handled by the Bergland campaign. Eventually, the LNC authorized \$40,000 in debt to help fund last minute ballot drives. Word of the rift quickly got around, as well as the threat of a Paul campaign pull-out.

Kunberger originally told allies he was waiting until the Paul campaign supporters on the LNC had to head home to bring up the issue, but this affair eventually blew over and it was never actually presented on the floor.

Paul campaign manager Hayes subsequently sent a toughly worded letter to Kunberger outlining objections to his criticism. For the most part however, while unhappy with the budget changes, Turney and others have attempted to smooth ruffled feathers and patch up differences. Turney supports a strong ballot access effort and recognizes that raising more money will solve most of these problems.

In other business, Gerry Walsh was named to chair the Management and Audit Committee, and other members appointed were Don Ernsberger, Melinda Pillsbury-Foster and Steve Givot. Givot was also named to head up the Program Committee. Mike Holmes was re-appointed auditor.

Ted Brown was named to chair the Advertising and Publication Review Committee while Gary Johnson was named to head the

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Californians Sam Treynor (l) and Mark Hinkle (r) helped trim Turney's 1988 budget.



## Orlando

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Mailing List Committee. A proposal to include electronic and computer service mail information on the LP address database (E-Mail) was championed by Joe Dehn of Oregon, and ultimately deferred for further study to the Mailing List Committee. Dehn noted that there was no reason to exclude the privately operated computer "mail" system from the LP's own records.

A carefully researched proposal presented by Treasurer Thies to join in a legal action to enforce pre-1933 Gold Clauses in government bond contracts was discussed but was ultimately rejected as diversionary during the current election year. Getting free legal help on the issue also seemed to present a problem.

The LNC also heard other committee and headquarters reports and approved a change in the title back to National Director from LNC Office Manager and also approved the appointment of Paul Jacob to the post. Several LNC members weren't too happy about Turney's and Jacob's reluctance to specify who was currently and prospectively on the LP payroll and exactly what their job duties were. But they were told things were in the process of change. In fact, LNC representative At-Large Sharon Freeman Mitchell, whose husband Terry was the immediate past Director, learned during the meeting that she was laid off effective Dec. 4 as administrative assistant. It wasn't a total surprise, but she didn't expect to be told about it two days later during the LNC meeting.

In an experiment, the LNC broke up into two groups at one point so that the regional LNC reps could discuss development of state party organizations, while the other members continued to hash over budgetary business.

The LNC meeting didn't officially end until nearly 7:00 p.m., and post-meeting strategy sessions by Turney and others didn't break up until 3:00 a.m. the following morning.

But computers, headquarters and budgets were safely laid to rest, and members headed home secure in the knowledge that once again, America's third largest political party had survived yet another National Committee meeting. ■

## Lewis Trial Postponed

New Haven, CT - In an unexpected development, the federal government set back the jury selection date in Jim Lewis' "willful failure to file" income tax case from the original December 17 date to January 19.

According to Jim Davies, editor of the *Connecticut Libertarian*, this delay arose as a consequence of the pre-trial conference between the government prosecutors and Lewis. Under federal court procedure both sides have to share their legal strategies in advance of the actual trial proceedings. Apparently, government prosecutors didn't like what they heard from Lewis, who is acting as his own legal counsel, and they requested additional time to prepare.

Davies said that Lewis wasn't pleased with the delay, since it gives the government more time to mount an attack on his position. However, there is nothing he can do to prevent the move and he will spend the additional time on his own legal research.

*American Libertarian* intends to feature a first hand account of the Lewis trial in an upcoming issue. ■

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## F of F Con: Condoms & Constitutions

by Terry Von Mitchell

*Until recently, Terry Mitchell was the National Director of the Libertarian Party. He attended the Future of Freedom Conference representing his latest project, PRO3, a private group dedicated to stopping damage to the Earth's ozone layer.*

In what can be described as a truly positive experience, the fifteenth Future of Freedom Conference was held November 13th, 14th and 15th in Los Angeles.

Attended by a full spectrum of individualists, attendees ranged from neo-hippie to yuppies to punk. People traveled long distances to network, participate, party

and learn.

One of the most obvious things about this conference was the more balanced numbers of women to men. So this is where all the good looking fashionably dressed libertarian women congregate!

Scheduled events were enthusiastically attended, with high spirited feedback sometimes audible through heavy closed doors. Emerging from enthusiasm-building programs, participants reminded me of classmates in Dale Carnegie's Public Speaking and Human Relations course.

Occasionally people colorfully costumed as 1700's revolutionaries would rush by, on their way to events like the Founding Father's Debate, a re-creation of the original Constitutional Convention.

A free market restaurant "Dagny's Deli" (no connection to Dagny Sharon) set up and catered to the appetites of those wanting quality, tasty food at a reasonable price with no sales tax.

Perhaps the most interesting observation this reporter can relay is the frequent sighting of a product that was carried by many men and women alike — condoms. The distinctive orange Trojan packs peeked from pockets and purses. There's one thing you can say about cultural libertarians: they're responsible people.

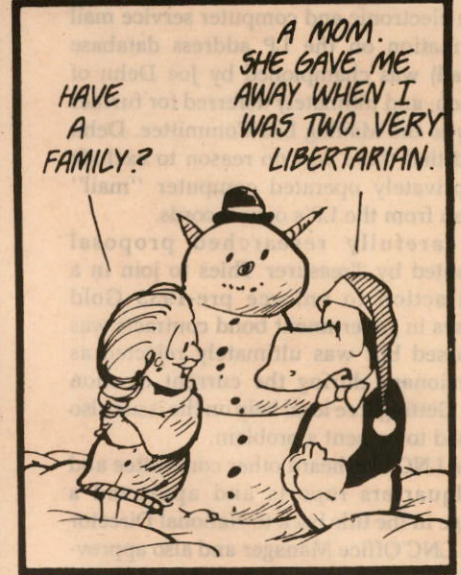
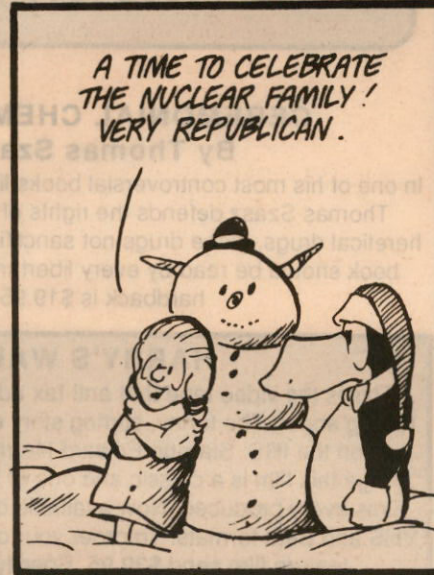
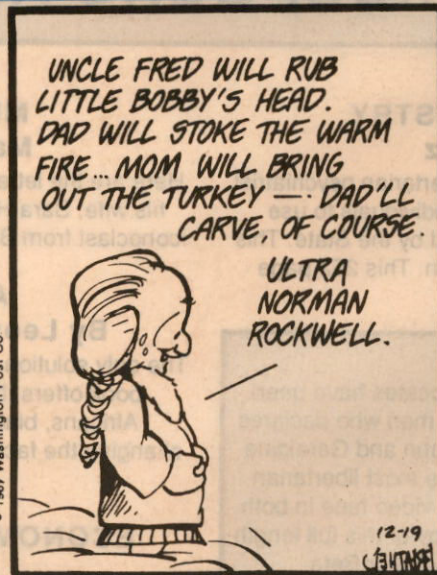
In the booth area of the convention, discussions in circles of anarchists were lively and sometimes animated. Most notable was the discussion of Max Headroom's cancellation. A popular opinion being that airing a program regularly featuring characters called Blanks (not state registered) and TV networks manipulating ratings to control the marketplace for political powerbrokers was hitting "too close to home". I tend to agree.

It was a very reaffirming conference, one that I can recommend wholeheartedly in the future to those wishing to relax and refuel on the essence of liberty. ■



# Libertarian Outlook

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## Access Priority

The recent move by the Libertarian Party's National Committee to make presidential ballot access a priority in their 1988 budget was a move in the right direction. While it may be controversial to reallocate someone's budget, the shift in budgetary priorities once again demonstrates that the Libertarian Party means business and is serious about providing a real political alternative in American politics.

There are other libertarian groups and organizations which can hold conferences and conventions, publish literature and newspapers, hold meetings and spread the ideas of individual freedom and responsibility. But the unique task of the Libertarian Party is to make it possible for libertarians to peacefully change the political system via the democratic process. The LP provides those who want major libertarian political change an opportunity to directly vote for that change.

The Libertarian Party is the largest membership libertarian organization in the country. It struggles for funding and does its best to provide literature, mailing lists, newspapers and conventions. But the one thing it does uniquely well is allow libertarians to vote for recognizable and explicit Libertarian candidates — none of this fuzzy "low tax liberalism" or libsymp fellow traveling that others try to peddle. The LP stands for good old fashioned high-octane something-to-offend-everyone libertarianism.

Unfortunately, under our so-called democratic system (which has degenerated into the mythical "two-party system") winning a place on the ballot to compete with the other parties is terribly expensive, frustrating and burdensome. But the process of ballot access has to be done by someone, somehow. Otherwise libertarians are stuck with the prospect of waiting for the political transformation of one of the older two parties. Don't hold your breath. Well, no one said democracy was easy.

So the LP is stuck with a difficult job. But if the LP doesn't make ballot access a priority, particularly in a presidential election year, it would be abandoning its primary reason for existence: allowing voters a choice. Only the LP as an organization can offer that service to libertarians. Sure, libertarians can sponsor initiatives and referen-

da (where allowed). And to some degree we can influence politics in other parties — although the track record there is pretty bad (eg. the terrible voting record of former SIL member Idaho Senator Steve Symms). But for the moment the Libertarian Party is the sole provider of libertarian political candidates of honest pro-freedom convictions.

LP members rightly expect the Libertarian political party to give them political access to the system of governance. That is an implicit and sacred bargain the LP makes in return for dues and contributions. And nothing less than a maximum commitment to ballot access is deserved in return for that support.

Fortunately, the Ron Paul campaign has recognized that, as has the LP National Committee. About 10% of the main LP 1988 operating budget was re-directed to ballot access. Hopefully, that plus a lot of hard work and money from all other sources will be enough to allow libertarians in every state to cast their votes for the Paul-Marrou ticket next November.

And those votes will be a small but important step in a long struggle. But if the Libertarian Party wants to send a message next election, it first has to be on the ballot. Congratulations to all those in the LP who have recognized and met this challenge. ■

## 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.

### Very Libertarian

AL's coverage of the national LP convention (Sept-Oct 1987) was excellent. I was puzzled, however, by what was meant by "attempts... to water down or modify sections of the existing platform dealing with a woman's right to abortion" were "unprecedented." Libertarians for Life has attempted this at every convention since 1979.

LFL's suggested amendment to the "Children's Rights" plank did win out at the Platform Committee hearings, however. You may have overlooked it since it was never debated on the floor. It has a life in-

dependent of abortion, but its premise is one-half of the libertarian debate on abortion: parental obligation vs. a right to deadly abandonment.

This plank implicitly raises the issue, but it doesn't address it. It says, "Whenever parents or other guardians are unable or unwilling to care for their children, those guardians have the right to seek other persons who are willing to assume guardianship." But what if the parents won't seek other substitutes or can't find any? At LFL's suggestion, PlatCom changed "the right to seek" to "the obligation to find." John Walker, LFL's Research Director, argued that whenever one concedes personhood (whether it's before birth, at birth, or afterwards) the parents must at least bring them to the church steps. LFL's polls show that most libertarians oppose a position that said "parents may cause death by abandoning infants on top of Mt. Everest."

LFL had proposed two debates for the convention program, "parental obligation" and "fetal personhood", the other half of the issue. The Program Committee chose only parental obligation vs. abandonment, because, they considered it to be the more important question for libertarians.

Walter Block, who debated Walker, phrased most of his arguments for abandonment in the context of abortion. He holds that we are persons from fertilization. Bill Howell, one of the PlatCom's minority who voted against parental obligation, confessed to me after he voted that he, too, holds the view that personhood begins at conception. Both Howell and Block strongly support abortion.

**Doris Gordon**  
National Coordinator  
Libertarians for Life  
Wheaton, MD

### Seduced and Abandoned

It's not that I disagree with your analysis of the party elections at the Seattle convention, (Sept-Oct 87, AL) but, your readers deserve the truth.

The truth is Jim Turney and Paul Kumberger got me drunk. After four days of sleep deprivation, bad food and worse beer, Jim and Paul seduced me into running for national LP Treasurer. They told me I'd be rich and famous, and that women would find me irresistible.

The next morning I woke up headachy and wondering if I could get an annulment.  
**Clifford F. Thies**  
Baltimore, MD

## Notable Quotes



Better "nutty" than "realistic"

"Libertarian conservatives find their position lonely, but not nutty. Do not confuse us with the Libertarian Party; that engaging crowd, to make

its point and establish its identity, takes kooky positions: no taxes, no defense, no government to speak of. That's a noble protest, not a realistic platform."

*New York Times* columnist William Safire, April 19, 1987

### Rotten Roots

"The biggest problem with this country is

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## Notables

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the Communist Party," said one (Peking, China) taxi driver, complaining that many party functionaries were corrupt. "The Communist Party is like a big tree — but the roots are rotten."

*The Wall St. Journal*, May 14, 1987

### Crucified

"I have long maintained that if Jesus were to show up today, he would experience the same statist tyranny as before, except that he would be crucified by the IRS, not the military."

*"Witch-Bashing, Book-Burning, and Professor Harold Hill's Lessons in Practical Politics," Butler D. Shaffer, August 1987 Liberty*

### How to Keep Them Down on the Farm

"For the first time in most U.S. farmers' memory, they have little choice but to participate in Washington's patchwork of programs. Indeed, a record 84% of all eligible land is enrolled in government programs this year."

*"To Produce or Not to Produce: Farm Belt Riled By Policies That Often Work At Cross Purposes," The Wall St. Journal*, July 17, 1987

### Commentary on Public Education

"You know, everybody asks about the difference between the system there and the system here. There, it's a different kind of relationship between a master and a student. There's respect and some ethics. People wouldn't take guns and knives to the school. If you don't want to learn, why the hell are you wasting the time of the teacher? I don't understand the system of free education here — this irritates me more than anything else in this country. I must say. It is the lowest of the low."

*ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, who defected from the USSR in 1970, in Rolling Stone interview, Oct. 8, 1987*

### Take Two Regulations and Call Me In The Morning...

"France has more bureaucrats than it has doctors, lawyers and social workers combined."

*"Letters from Paris," Philip Revzin, The Wall St. Journal*, October 1, 1987

### Lyrics of a song directed to Soviet Central Committee members attending annual opening concert of the Leningrad "Rock Club":

"Looking up at the terrorists above, I say, Get out of Control! Tear down these walls, Sing what you want, not what you're told. Get out of Control!"

*Mikhail Barzikhin, lead singer of Leningrad group Televizor, quoted in letter by Harvard Professor Timothy W. Ryback, The Wall St. Journal*, Sept. 4, 1987

### Speaking of Television...

"Algeria's effort to use the TV program *Dallas* to show the evils of capitalism apparently has backfired because Algerians are fascinated by the glamour and intrigue at Southfork, a researcher said Saturday."

"The free market economy and the idea of wealth and luxury associated with it, the myth of unlimited freedom in business and social behavior and the absence of the state in the affairs of the individual appeal to a good portion of the population, which has grown tired of a paternalistic and authoritarian state... which has largely failed to deliver the happy and prosperous future it has promised to all segments of the population" Yahia Mahamdi, a University of Texas graduate student, reported at a scholarly conference on Friday."

*"Southfork is an ideal habitation for the average Algerian viewer." Associated Press, October 11, 1987*

### Facing Up to Lies

"But no one ever accused the mainstream media of facing up to the implications of the government lies they routinely run as news, or their repeated failure to go behind the 'veil' until events make the task inescapable. Symbiotically linked to the same officials who routinely subvert the Constitution and mislead the people, too many journalists at top prefer to believe that each revealed excess is an aberration — or a thing of the past."

*political commentator and former State Department spokesman Hodding Carter III, "America's Secret Wars Unveiled," the Wall St. Journal*, Oct. 8, 1987

### Your Tax Dollars At Work

"The war on drugs cost the various governments across the nation \$6.2 billion in 1986 with the main burden falling on state and local enforcement agencies, which spent \$4.9 billion, or 18.2 percent of their total budgets, on the continuing battle, the U.S. Customs Service has reported."

*Don Irwin, "War on drugs costly for state governments," Los Angeles Times*, October 25, 1987

### Guest Column:

## Greenspan: Randian

by Murray Rothbard

*Murray Rothbard is S.J. Hall Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a world famous economist and libertarian scholar. He is a frequent contributor to American Libertarian.*

On the face of it, Alan Greenspan's accession to Power as Chairman of the Federal Reserve should not generate much interest among libertarians. Alan is — and always has been — a "conservative Keynesian," which means that his views are almost identical with the predecessor who hand-picked him: Paul Volcker. They are also virtually identical with the positions of all the Wise Old Men/has been-Old Guards (take your choice) who permeated the Eisenhower-Nixon-Ford Administrations: Arthur F. Burns, Paul McCracken, Herb Stein, Henry Wallich, et al. In short: moderate deficits, moderate tax increases, moderate increases in government spending, and perpetuation of the New Deal-Fair Deal-Great Society welfare-warfare State. On the monetary front, the conservative Keynesian legacy means that Greenspan, like Volcker, will acquire the reputation of being a tight money advocate, while pouring in more money at the slightest sign of recession.

Greenspan has been an Establishment lackey ever since he endorsed the idiotic "Whip Inflation Now" buttons when he was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors under Gerry Ford. Since he was considered an enemy by both the supply-side and monetarist wings of Reaganite economics, Greenspan did not at first receive a high post in the Reagan Administration. But he performed an act of infamy by coming in, in 1982, when the racketeering Social Security program was widely perceived to be bankrupt, and serving as head of a "bipartisan" Social Security Commission, which saved the program by imposing higher taxes. (Any and all programs, of course, can always be "saved" by putting still more screws to the taxpayer.) Now, however, that, due to Intransigence, the



Greenspan

cowboys, rogues, and rightists (Poindexter, Regan, Casey, North, et. al.) have been replaced by Establishment Keynesians in the seats of Power (H. Baker, J. Baker, Carlucci, Shultz etc.), the stage was set for Volcker to step down and be replaced by Alan Greenspan.

In Establishment economics, Greenspan is a bit of an anomaly. In no sense a scholar, Greenspan has written no book and no journal articles — his output consists of a few magazine articles. His forte has been not scholarship but forecasting. But his forecasting has clearly been pretty lousy, since his economic forecasting and consulting firm, Townsend-Greenspan, has now admittedly folded because their clients wanted not so much the firm's undistinguished forecasts, but personal access to the Great Greenspan.

What is so great about personal access to Greenspan? To anyone who has ever known him in person or seen him speak, access to Alan is the least that any truly rational person would want. The reverse of charismatic, Greenspan habitually drones on in an uninflected monotone, and in a profession that abounds in platitudinous bores,

Greenspan's discourse is even more rococo in style and empty of content than usual. The attraction of Greenspan's person to his clientele is therefore only understandable in light of Alan's long-term elbow-rubbing with the Great, with key politicians and Establishment financiers. If Paul Volcker, for example, represented the Rockefeller wing of the Establishment (he had formerly been economist at the Chase Manhattan Bank), Alan has been a key figure for years in the scarcely differentiable Morgan Wing. For Greenspan comes to his Chairmanship of the Fed as a member of the board of directors of J.P. Morgan & Co., and of Morgan Guaranty Trust, as well as a member of the august executive committee of the Rockefeller-dominated Trilateral Commission.

So far, then, just a dreary intra-Establishment shuffle. But the piquant touch that makes Alan unique, and that excites many libertarians, is of course his reputation as a leading orthodox Randian. As a Randian activist, for example, Alan once wrote articles defending laissez-faire, and even calling for a return to the gold standard. Doesn't this mean that the Millennium is at hand, that Greenspan will now put into effect the Randian laissez-faire agenda?

It is true that Alan was a top Randian, a member of what the Randians themselves proudly referred to as "the senior collective". All members of the senior collective were members of one Canadian-Jewish family, relatives of either Nathaniel or Barbara Branden. (E.g., Elaine Kalberman was Nathaniel's sister, Harry Kalberman his brother-in-law, etc.) Joan Mitchell made the collective by virtue of being married to Dr. Allan Blumenthal, cousin of Nathan's, who succeeded Branden as top objectivist shrink after Branden was booted out of the hierarchy in the famous 1968 split. Greenspan just made the relatives' list by having been previously married to Joan Mitchell. Moreover, when he was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Greenspan was able to convert Ayn Rand to endorsing President Ford. Greenspan got Rand a personal interview with the President, and she emerged dazzled; she gave the high sign to Greenspan, and said "he's one of us." This incident surely proved that Rand was gifted with mystic insights unattainable by any other mortal; has anyone

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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## Blumert Takes Charge of BAC

From page 1

California attorney Carol Newman and LP Ballot Access Consultant Richard Winger to its ranks. Winger is considered by most observers as the foremost authority on third party and independent political activity in the country.

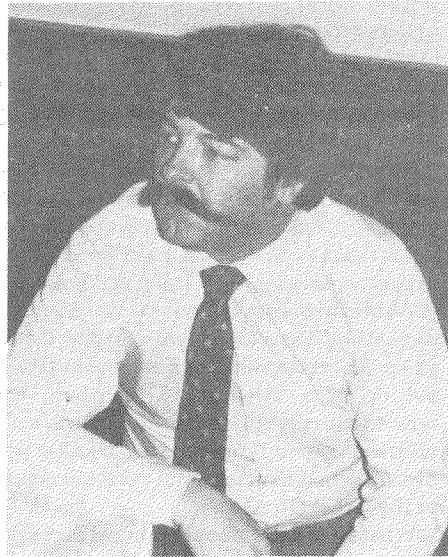
In related developments, the BAC reports that the LP's Paul/Marrou ticket is eligible to appear on the ballot in 20 states, and petition drives are underway in nine other states at the moment. The LP also expects to pick up ballot access in 10 additional states through local and state LP efforts only, and to spend about \$20,000 to secure ballot status in six others. Another eight states are expected to cost the BAC about \$8,000 each, on average, to successfully petition. The final six states (IN, MA, OK, NC, OR, FL) which require from 30,000 to 56,000 petition signatures each, are expected to cost the BAC over \$21,000 each.

But according to Fielder's own financial plan for Jan-Aug 1988 (the main petitioning period in 1988) the BAC expects to only gross about \$66,000 and net (after fundraising and Coordinator salary expenses) about \$36,000. This is about \$144,000 shy of Fielder's estimate for 50 state ballot access for the LP presidential ticket. Presumably, either the final most expensive eight states will have to be dropped or additional funds must be found. Although with some stretching, perhaps only Pennsylvania — a state which has long bellyached about the operations of the LNC and consistently votes to boycott the body — would have to be dropped along with the six most expensive states in order to maximize ballot access without incurring debt.

The alternatives to dropping states — going into debt or outside funding directly by the Paul campaign — are problematic. The LP has been gun shy about incurring debt ever since the LNC authorized \$40,000 in the summer of 1984 to ultimately help secure ballot access in 39 states for the LP's Bergland-Lewis ticket. However this was unpopular with many LP members (including a number of LNC members who voted for it at the time) and the debt issue ultimately was used to oust National Direc-

tor Honey Lanham in June of 1985. Eventually these debts were paid off or forgiven by early 1986. The Paul campaign has also been reluctant to publicly state their intentions for ballot access. Although with the accession of the Paul campaign Chair Blumert to the BAC Chair, there are indications that they intend to maximize their ballot access chances. However, the Paul campaign has also publicly pledged not to run a campaign deficit (consistent with Paul's past GOP campaigns) and it appears unlikely they will go into hock for ballot access. Vice Presidential candidate Andre Marrou has promised to help ballot access efforts along with his honorary Campaign Chair Russell Means, but to date little actual assistance has been forthcoming. Marrou's modestly funded campaign so far has yet to be in a position to help anyone else.

According to Fielder's BAC report, the mainstay of BAC funding will be direct mail, a dedicated monthly pledge program, and possible assistance from Paul campaign donors who have otherwise reached their federal contributions limits for the candidate directly. ■



Former Ballot Access Committee Chair Steve Fielder at Orlando LNC meeting. Two weeks later he lost his paid position as BAC Coordinator.

## Bulletin: Fielder Leaving BAC Post

Burlingame, CA - Ballot Access Committee chair Burt Blumert revealed on December 22 that BAC Coordinator Steve Fielder would be replaced in that post as soon as a suitable candidate can be located. This change was made effective December 21, although Fielder will be paid through the end of January.

"This move is in recognition that the Ron Paul campaign is in a better position to oversee ballot access efforts than the BAC is able to do by itself," Blumert said, "although we do plan on using Steve to assist with on-going legal work involving ballot access." Blumert said that since taking charge of the BAC, he learned that one key to the success of the New Alliance Party (a tiny leftist group) in ballot access is that they run ballot access in a centralized fashion with short lines of communication. Fielder had been the original chair of the BAC and was replaced by Blumert (who also heads up the Paul Campaign Committee) in early November. Fielder had been the paid BAC coordinator since November 1.

"Administratively, we should be

under one roof," Blumert said, "particularly since it's evident that the Paul campaign will have to make major financial expenditures for ballot access." Blumert said that ballot access consultant Richard Winger has described Fielder as "one of the best legal minds in the field" but also recommended a more centralized operation. Where legal, Blumert said he would also consider joint petitioning efforts with the New Alliance group as well as enhanced use of paid petitioning firms such as Rick Arnold & Associates from San Diego. Recent petitioning efforts, considered among the most difficult, and inability to receive necessary information from Fielder, are believed to have contributed to reasons for this change.

Paul campaign manager Nadia Hayes said she "would have been happy to continue working with Steve" but is willing to supervise a new BAC Coordinator based in Houston with the Paul campaign as soon as a replacement is found. Reportedly, LP National Director Paul Jacob has been offered the position on very generous terms, but a search will continue if he declines. (Prospects should contact the Paul campaign, 713-333-1988, for more information). ■



"SO LONG, PAUL, AND THANKS FOR THE TROPHY..."

## Greenspan

From page 5

else ever seen any signs of creeping Randianism in Gerry Ford?

The answer, then, to the burning question: will Greenspan implement a hidden Randian laissez-faire or gold standard agenda is, of course, No Way. Why should anyone think this after a record of decades of Establishment policies advocated by Greenspan? The *New York Times* was a lot shrewder about Greenspan's alleged Randianism than many libertarians. When Alan was nominated to be head of the Fed, the *Times* noted the piquant touch that he is a "philosophical" believer in gold and laissez-faire. The tipoff to its readers is that Greenspan is only a believer in these strange doctrines "on the high philosophical level". In practice, however, in concrete policy matters where it counts, Greenspan can be trusted to be a centrist like everyone else because he is a "pragmatist", and therefore can be trusted to be one of the boys.

The point that most libertarians do not realize is that Greenspan's strategic practice is not an aberration, but a typical Randian position. Note that Rand herself showed no qualms about endorsing not only Ford, but also Nixon for President, and the centrist liberal Pat Moynihan for Senator from New York. She balked at endorsing Reagan, only because of his anti-abortion position. But how can this be? How can a person and a movement, constantly prating about "principle," kowtow to these egregious statists? And how does this square with Randians constantly denouncing libertarians and virtually everyone else for not agreeing with them on everything under the sun, for daring to form political coalitions with libertarian utilitarians, hedonists, and whim-worshippers, or even with people who are depraved enough to prefer Bach to Rachmaninoff?

Here's how it's done: First, you claim that it is deeply immoral to form political coalitions with anyone who has wrong philosophical premises, whether about free will, percept and concept, or Rachmaninoff. Then add that it is impossible ever to achieve liberty unless everyone agrees with you on virtually everything. And denounce libertarians accordingly. But then, since any kind of triumph for liberty becomes — by definition — hopeless, you search around for any politician who is one millimeter more conservative, or less leftist, than his opponent, and happily proceed to endorse that person, join his Cabinet, or whatever.

This permits you the luxury of (a) on the one hand, exhibiting total contempt toward everyone who might possibly be your ally for liberty; and (b) in addition, sucking up to whoever is in the Corridors of Power. Thus, one can enjoy the fruits of State Power on the one hand, and the luxury of being a lone battler for principle on the other. Thus, the Randian can enjoy the best of both worlds; he or she can sell out to and apologize for power, while at the same time, boast about their martyrdom for principle.

There is, of course, another way to look at it: that the Randian's only real interest is in Power, not liberty. By being brutal sectarians within the broad libertarian movement, they can exert maximum power over the hearts and minds (and pocketbooks) of their adherents; and they can also exert maximum power in the government by sucking up to whatever group, a millimeter more conservative than others, that happens to be in power. Look at Randians as power-seekers first and foremost, and the bizarre anomalies in their strategic posture begin to make a great deal of sense. Greenspan, then, has been no different from his Randian comrades in the quest for Power; he has just been more successful. ■

## Volunteer Day Planned

Washington, DC - The National Libertarian Party is celebrating a new holiday on January 27, 1988: Volunteer Day. This event, like Tax Protest Day, is designed to gain media attention for a major libertarian issue (opposition to conscription) and to provide a more positive image in the eyes of the public, according to LP National Director Paul Jacob.

On Wednesday, January 27, libertarians across the country will take birthday cakes to their local armed forces recruiting stations in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the end of the draft and the beginning of the present All-Volunteer Force. (Fifteen years ago, then President Richard Nixon announced the end of draft inductions for the Vietnam War, and no American has since been drafted.)

"The Volunteer Day cake might have an anti-draft quote or a statement such as, 'Happy Birthday to the Volunteer Army — Free People Defending Free People.' Libertarians will cut the cake and share it with the recruiters in front of TV cameras and radio and newspaper reporters," according to Jacob.

Continued page 7



## Volunteer Day

From page 6

duce a Volunteer Day flyer for distribution at the event. The flyer — complete with our position on the draft, information on Volunteer Day and the Libertarian Party — will be designed to encourage the public to call for more information. The LP will also provide support in organizing Volunteer Day and in contacting the news media.

"Volunteer Day offers us a tremendous opportunity to make news," Jacob said. "The draft is an issue that has affected millions of Americans past and present and it remains an issue of great interest. This interest is even more pronounced with Republicans and Democrats pushing for the draft or national service. Gilliam Kerley is imprisoned in Leavenworth Federal Prison for not registering for the draft, and U.S. ships and soldiers are in the midst of the Persian Gulf conflict."

"Moreover, the Volunteer Day celebration is a great chance to present a positive image to the public as well as the media. Who could possibly find anything but good things to say about people baking a cake and sharing it with others in the community? Volunteer Day won't be a protest or picket or demonstration but rather a celebration which the media and the general public can appreciate," Jacob concluded.

Everyone is encouraged to participate and local Volunteer Day coordinators are needed. If you want to take part please contact the National LP Office 1-800-682-1776 or National Volunteer Day Chair Toni Black 215-265-0350 for more information. ■

## Fanning Named AK State Senator, Randolph to Run

Fairbanks, AK - On December 8 former Libertarian Party State Representative (and subsequently, a Republican party member) Ken Fanning was named by the Alaska Democratic Governor as a State Senator from the Fairbanks area.

The vacancy, created by the death of the incumbent GOP Senator (see "Randolph Considered for AK State Senate", Sept-Oct AL), aroused controversy when the Senate Republicans announced they wanted to seat former Libertarian State Representative and LP and GOP gubernatorial candidate Dick Randolph to fill the position. However, the Governor didn't want to appoint anyone who intended to seek re-election to the seat next November, and he instead name Beverly Bennett to fill the seat. She is the

widow of the previous office holder.

However, the GOP controlled State Senate refused to ratify Governor Cowper's choice and threatened to take the matter to court. The matter stood at a deadlock for nearly two months and in the meantime, Randolph, pressured by the state GOP, withdrew his name and instead announced his candidacy for the seat next fall. Randolph, who served four terms in the state House of Representatives from the same area, is considered a heavy favorite to win outright next year.

The GOP then nominated three other possible candidates to fill the vacancy: Urban Rahoi, Helen Warner (president of the GOP Women and reportedly a small "I" libertarian) and Ken Fanning, who served two state house terms as an LP State Representative in the early 1980's. Fanning, who re-joined the GOP along with Randolph to assist Randolph's unsuccessful GOP gubernatorial primary bid in 1986, was then named to the Senate vacancy by the Governor.

According to Alaska LP State Chair Ed Hoch Sr., the outcome appears favorable to Randolph since he and Fanning are close and Fanning "will probably not seek the seat himself next fall." This clears the way for Randolph, who if successful can gain a prominent spot in state politics in 1988 and also hold the seat safely if he seeks another crack at the Governor's office in 1990, which is considered highly probable.

"Randolph is very ambitious," Hoch commented, "so I would expect him to run for both offices. But every party Randolph gets into, he splits. Maybe next we can get him to join the Democrats," Hoch wryly observed.

At any rate, both former LP state reps are jumping back into the thick of Alaskan politics. Stay tuned. . . ■

## Libertarian Appointed to City Council

Addison, MI - Libertarian Party member Dr. James Clifton has been appointed to the Addison, Michigan, City Council and also to the Planning Commission.

The appointment, announced in early November, brings the total of elected or appointed LP officeholders to 74, according to Eric Rittberg, who is keeping track of such things as part of his job with the Ron Paul campaign. Most positions are at the municipal or county level.

Addison is a small town of about 600 located in south central Michigan. ■

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## Free Forum/LROC Update

San Francisco, CA - Free Forum Books owner Jim Peron reported on Dec. 15 that "there has been no progress *per se* on the legal aspect" of the October 23 police raid on his San Francisco-based libertarian bookstore and mail house. In the police search, which was conducted during an arrest of a part-time bookstore employee, Peron's business mailing list, the San Francisco LP mailing list, Groundswell petitions and Norma Jean pardon petitions were seized along with Peron's personal address book.

"I have found a lawyer who will take the case on contingency," Peron said, but he reported that no word had been received from the D.A.'s office about why they were still holding the libertarian materials. Peron maintains it's an unconstitutional instance of illegal seizure, and notes that one officer involved in this raid was also recently charged in a civil suit with illegal seizure stemming from an arrest incident last August.

### LROC Undoings?

In an unrelated incident, Peron also charges that Eric Garris, most recently active in the Libertarian Republican Organizing Committee (LROC) had gotten at least one telephone line in the bookstore taken out in return for the refusal of the San Francisco LP (which Peron chairs) to sponsor a joint LROC-SFLP meeting.

Peron admits that the telephones had never been taken out of Garris' name from the time when he operated the bookstore in the early 1980s, and that on December 9, Garris, Collin Hunter and Mike Mayakis attended an SFLP meeting at the bookstore and requested a joint meeting of LROC and the LP. According to Peron, the motion for such a meeting died for lack of a second and the LROC trio left the meeting angry.

"The next day Garris called the phone company and asked that the phone lines (one for the SFLP, one for the bookstore) in his name be turned off," Peron charged. Peron, who has been paying the bills for the lines and had never bothered to change the account name on them, managed to get the LP number turned back on but the bookstore number was still disconnected as of mid-December. "It will cost several hundred dollars to turn it back on in my name," Peron said. It was clearly an act of revenge which caused the action, according to Peron, for the non-cooperation with the proposed LROC meeting.

Peron also went on to explain his suspicions about theft of the SFLP mailing list. According to Peron, several LROC

members until recently had keys to the bookstore, and Peron says he witnessed one LROC member behave suspiciously one evening outside the store when he was working late. "I didn't make too much of it at the time," Peron explained, "but recently several SFLP members I know who are not on other libertarian mailing lists received the LROC newsletter. In fact, one asked me how he could have gotten on their list. The only explanation I can think of is that LROC has somehow gotten a copy of the SFLP list and is using it for their mailings."

Members of LROC and Jim Peron have been at odds for some time, and it is known that LROC rents a number of mailing lists from time to time (including the *American Libertarian* list), to distribute their newsletter.

### Garris Responds

When contacted about Peron's allegations, Eric Garris of LROC admitted he requested that the phone lines in his name be discontinued, but said "I've asked Jim for the past two years to get this changed." Garris also said the late payment of the telephone bills sometimes hurt his credit rating, and said "it's no big deal, it'll only cost him the \$300 deposit."

Garris said the timing was no accident, and said that he and Colin Hunter attended the SFLP meeting to respond to an unsigned article in a December issue of the *Golden Gate Libertarian* attacking LROC for various alleged misdeeds. "We went to the meeting and offered to sponsor and pay for a joint LROC-SFLP meeting to clear the air and respond to these charges," Garris told *American Libertarian*, "and also to hand out a one-page flyer giving our side of the story." But Garris said Peron, who chaired the meeting, refused to recognize him to speak "despite the fact that I am a Life Member of the SFLP." Garris said he was angry at the treatment he got at the meeting. "Jim can pay his own phone bills," Garris remarked.

Asked to comment about the allegation of mailing list theft, Garris joked that "LROC probably got the names from the police," referring to the seizure of the SFLP mailing list along with other libertarian materials during the October arrest raid. "Actually, we got a list of all northern California LP members from Russell Means," Garris said, and most of the names on that list are at least six months old or older. Garris said he had keys to the bookstore but he figured Peron had long since changed the locks.

As for the idea that LROC members have

Continued page 8

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## Update

From page 7

been lurking in the dark around the bookstore, Garriss laughed and said, "not me, it gives me the creeps just to be near the place."

### Peron's Last Word

Two days after *AL*'s first discussion with Peron about this, he contacted *AL* and said his checking with people who received LROC mailings (and two LROC members in a position to know details) indicated that his first theory about the SFLP mailing list was incorrect. Instead, Peron said, LROC members admit that they got the entire California LP mailing list via the Russell Means presidential campaign.

The problem with that, according to Peron, is that the list was originally given to the Means' campaign on a one-time use basis and shouldn't have been "stolen" by LROC. Peron believes Alexia Gilmore, who managed the Means' campaign data base, (also a roommate of Colin Hunter's, the main financier behind LROC) is the person who had access to the California LP list and who is also connected with LROC. Gilmore also is the prime mover behind FIFE (Freedom Is For Everyone), an independent caucus within the LP designed to continue work along the lines of Russell Means' original campaign themes.

According to Peron, California LP data base administrator Donna Pert contacted Means in Arizona in December about the California LP mailing list question and he denied any knowledge of handing it over to anyone else. Peron contends that the California LP should pursue action to stop LROC's appropriation of the list and seek reimbursement.

According to Peron, citing LROC sources, the total LROC list numbers about 2,000, with 1,500 coming from the California LP list in question. ■

## LP Candidate Sets Record

by American Libertarian special correspondent.

Conklin, NY - On November 3, Libertarian candidate Margaret M. Fries polled 37% of the vote in a partisan race for Conklin (NY) Town Justice. Her spectacular result is the highest percentage achieved by a candidate for public office in the Libertarian Party's 15-year history in New York state, setting a new high-water mark for serious campaigns.

This was not an "educational" campaign, since the possibility of a win was recognized at the outset. Prior to her entry, a Republican was running unopposed. And although an incumbent, the competition had been appointed rather than elected to fill the judicial position.

But this two-way race had obstacles beyond the usual limited resources. The Republican Party accounts for almost two-thirds of the electorate. The Town of Conk-

lin has very high voter turnout, even in off-election years. The constituency has historically voted along strict party lines. And, candidate Fries had no prior political experience.

Nevertheless, a door-to-door petition drive resulted in filing twice the number of signatures required for ballot access. Once qualified, door-belling was done by the candidate in each election district. But to reach everyone in the rural jurisdiction (having limited news coverage), a direct-mail campaign was also implemented. One piece was distributed to all households a week before the election, and active voters were targeted with a personal note from Ms. Fries a day or two prior.

Vote results were provided by poll-watchers covering all election districts — within 1/2 hour of polls closing without relying upon media reporting. Fries' race challenged traditional voting patterns (the last independent candidate for local office only got half the number of votes recorded), and far surpassed results that any previous Libertarian candidates achieved in the town. ■

## ULC Tax Exemption Revoked

Washington, DC - The U.S. Claims Court upheld an earlier revocation of the tax exempt status of the Universal Life Church, in an early December summary judgment in favor of the IRS.

The ruling claimed that "no material fact was in dispute and that the IRS was entitled to a judgment as a matter of law."

The main evidence in the case appeared to be the considerable discussion in church publications about maximizing tax benefits for church ministers, and that this constituted "substantial nonexempt activity in and of itself."

The court said, "the intensity of the religious convictions of the plaintiff's members and officers cannot operate to exempt them from the tax law if the activities of the plaintiff's members and officers cannot in themselves justify such an exemption." ■

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Interviews: Tibor Machan, John Trever and Robert Poole, Jr.

Libertarians for Animal Rights  
Lewis on Trial

Attack of the Right Wing Crazies  
Galt's Gulch in Ft. Collins

Reviews: "Torture", "Dismantling the State", "Capitalism for Kids"

Plus cartoons, political notes, media watch and more...

## Political Notes



Lake Jackson, TX - The Ron Paul campaign is heading into uncharted political waters with the recent stock market crash and undetermined competing political lineups adding to the uncertainty.

So far though, insiders are viewing most of the developments positively, since the LP presidential campaign will have to conduct a guerilla-style media campaign and exploit every possible opportunity. The new economic environment and accompanying jitters is sure to be fertile ground for Paul's favorite economic scenarios and gloomy predictions.

There is also optimism over Jack Kemp's recent perceived political weakness in Iowa and his money troubles. Kemp is perhaps the only GOP candidate who might seriously compete with the Paul campaign for the ideological economic conservative vote.

The nomination of former GOP Congressman George Hansen by the nearly defunct Populist Party is a toss-up. Hansen was nominated along with a deep-pocketed Tennessee millionaire as VP, which could result in a decently financed effort, despite the near total disarray of the Populist organization. Hansen, however, has repeatedly told Ron Paul and others that he is not interested in a third party effort and is reportedly seeking a presidential pardon in order to run again for Congress. Hansen might endorse Paul if he declines to run himself after he is released from federal prison, after serving a term for financial disclosure violations.

Aside from a possible Jesse Jackson bid, which is not anticipated at the moment, other third party efforts or major independents do not appear to be a serious possibility. The sprinkling of near-and-far left political parties are not expected to have much ballot access success, and even the Populist effort is not seen as going anywhere.

The socialist New Alliance Party is working hard for ballot access and may even match the LP effort. Their only problem appears to be what to do with it. Reportedly, they now require psychological screening for new party members and have conducted massive purges, including their 1984 presidential candidate. The New Alliance party is always burning a candle in hopes that Jesse Jackson will bring his "rainbow coalition" to their organization, but chances for that appear slim, given Jackson's new found success in the Democratic Party.

The Ron Paul LP campaign may well have the "third party" political spectrum all to itself.

Austin, TX - The Texas LP got instant results after an early October meeting in Corpus Christi agreed to raise the party's media profile by publicizing positions on proposed

1987 state constitutional amendments.

Texas LP Secretary and LP National Committee member Gary Johnson of Austin received statewide publicity in his blast against a proposed amendment to fund \$500 million in state bonds to finance a proposed federal "supercollider-superconductor" which will ultimately cost over \$4.4 billion.

Johnson, in a well-publicized press conference at the state capitol, called the federal project a "superboondoggle" which would require "supertaxes" to finance. He noted that no private organizations are willing to finance the project and that arguments about "job creation" always ignore job destruction in the private sector caused by reduced private resources after taxes are raised.

Texas is in competition with other states for the federal project, and after the LPT's blast a high-powered media offensive was launched by the usual gang of suspects: the Governor, the congressional delegation and other special interests.

Johnson noted that the whole idea of the federally financed project was opposed at the Seattle LP convention in a resolution and that recent scientific advances will probably make the project scientifically unnecessary by the time it is built. The LP position was carried by the state UPI wire and appeared on local TV.

Arlington, VA - The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has levied its first fine against an employer for "knowingly" hiring illegal aliens for jobs.

The Quality Inn in Arlington, VA was fined \$16,500 for hiring 16 illegal immigrants under a new law passed in November of 1986. This law, which imposes burdensome paperwork requirements and calls for fines and jail terms, hadn't been used until the September Virginia incident. The INS has been slow to enforce the sanctions, since the police state-type measure is bound to become unpopular with employers and others who do not discriminate in hiring practices.

Richmond, VA - The Libertarian International organization has announced several new representatives, including one from Poland and Russell Means, most recently an LP presidential nomination candidate, and has scheduled an ambitious program of international conferences.

An LI regional Lowlands conference was held Oct. 21-25 in Kalterherberg, West Germany with the bi-annual LI World Conference slated for next year on Aug. 7-13 in Swaziland, an independent country located adjacent to South Africa. Other conferences are planned for France in 1989 (to commemorate the storming of the Bastille), Vancouver, Canada in 1990, southern Europe in 1991 and Sydney, Australia in 1992.

L.I. has also recently produced two professional quality leaflets for general distribution.

More information on LI activities can be obtained by contacting: **Libertarian International, 9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, VA 23229.** ■