

# Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

July/August 1995

Caucus Newsletter

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## GOP Libertarian Targets Heflin's U.S. Senate Seat

by T. Franklin Harris

Longtime libertarian activist, radio talk show host, physician and Birmingham City Councilman James D. "Jimmy" Blake announced on Aug. 15 that he is entering the race for the GOP primary for U.S. Senate from Alabama. The Senate seat is presently held by folksy moderate Democrat Howell Heflin.

Blake, 44, is a native of Auburn, Ala., where he attended college. He then attained his MD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A former Air Force flight surgeon, he is now president of Hoover Family Medicine. He and his wife Mary Anne have two daughters.

Blake also served for many years as the chairman of the Alabama Libertarian Party and was a national leader in the short-lived Committee for a Libertarian Majority group, which sought to bring the LP into the political mainstream. In 1991 he became the first state coordinator for the Republican Liberty Caucus and has since been increasingly active with local GOP politics, though still maintaining support among LP members in the state.

Since 1993, he has served as a member of Birmingham's non-partisan city council. After falling short in his 1991 mayoral bid, he won a surprise victory for council member with a well-run aggressive campaign focusing on tax limitations, fiscal oversight, term limits and fighting crime. Blake represents District 3 (south side including Five Points).

His tenure on the council has been stormy. As the only fiscal conservative on the nine-member board, Blake has gained the reputation as a "gadfly," questioning just about every expenditure made by his colleagues. He has even sparred with Mayor Richard Arington over alleged corruption and misuse of taxpayers' money.

In response to one particular Blake inquiry, the mayor made groundless claims of racism to the press and wrote a blistering personal letter to the councilman saying "In less than four months on the council, you have shown the most disgusting and despicable behavior...I have let my staff set aside special time to meet with you and respond to your numerous inquiries about city matters...I now serve you notice, however, that you can expect no further special

(Continued on page 7)

## Republican Liberty Caucus Making Its Mark on Capitol Hill

by Mike Griffin

On July 27, a vote took place on the House floor which showed the RLC's growing strength and presence on Capitol Hill. All seven congressional members of RLC's advisory board voted in favor of lining out the Selective Service agency from its appropriations bill.

Reps. Mark Foley (R-FL), J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ), Jack Metcalf (R-WA), Matt Salmon (R-AZ), John Shadegg (R-AZ) and Steve Stockman (R-TX) stood 100 percent alongside the RLC. Brian Bilbray (R-CA), who recently agreed to serve as an RLC advisor, also supported our position.

This solid vote for the RLC was due to our new lobbying presence in Washington, DC. All RLC members were briefed on the issue along with other Republican members on the VA-HUD subcommittee. Without RLC bringing up the issue, many of the congressmen would not have understood why Selective Service registration could be eliminated without injuring national security.

By working with the Appropriations Committee staff, we managed to have deleted the expenditure line for the Selective Service System. If RLC hadn't talked with his staffer, Rep. Mark Neumann (R-IN) probably wouldn't have moved subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) to expunge the budget item.

Unfortunately, the Selective Service amendment was defeated, due to the insistence of Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY). After the deletion passed the subcommittee, Solomon made a full court press on Chairman Lewis and others to restore the system's funding. Within a week, Lewis reversed his decision and the full Appropriations Committee restored the funding.

This was not the end of RLC efforts. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-

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Senate Candidate Jimmy Blake

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## Feedback

**Editor:**

OK...You got me. I just returned from two weeks in Europe (France and Spain) and I read your latest newsletter. Great review of issues and I think Cliff's ratings are getting more accurate all the time.

**Don Ernsberger**  
Warminster, PA

**Editor:**

I'm glad to see that, in your annual liberty index of Congress, you have stopped referring to any congressman who falls within the upper right quadrant of the Nolan Chart as a libertarian. But while the goofy-sounding neologism "enterpriser" makes some sense as a category, "populist" is still being misused: populism is a style, not an ideology, and I know of many libertarians who are also populists.

A bigger problem with the study is your criteria. One can certainly make a case that libertarians should, as you suggest, support GATT and allow local option regarding prayer in public schools. One can also make strong arguments for the reverse. When even hard-core libertarians can't agree on the ideologically proper response to the questions, wouldn't it be best just to ignore these votes when you tabulate the scores?

**Jesse Walker**  
Port Townshend, WA

**Editor:**

The hypocrisy of asking for contributions for the advocacy of easing helmet regulations after the Republicans voted against the exclusionary rule and for criminalization of flag desecration is too much.

**Bjarne G. Nilsen**  
Marietta, OH

**Editor:**

I notice the Congressional Republicans already caving in. They can't get rid of the Government Broadcasting System (PBS) or National Government Radio (NPR). It's better to abolish one agency of government than to "cut" 20 of them by 5 percent.

**James B. Andrews**  
Phoenix, AZ

**Editor:**

Please don't ignore the fact that many libertarians are pro-life. You have been fair so far; Keep it up!

**Greg Ripps**  
San Antonio, TX

## RLC Financial Update

*by Mike Holmes, Senior Editor*

The RLC has made some amazing progress in the last several months - as detailed throughout this issue - in the areas of lobbying, media visibility and emerging libertarian Republican candidates. Our associated political action committee, the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund, has also been busy during this normally quiet political off-year.

So far this year, the PAC has distributed a total of \$1,350 to five candidates including Congressional Liberty Caucus chairman Jack Metcalf of Washington State, Virginia U.S. Senate hopeful and former Reagan budget director Jim Miller, RLC chair and Texas Congressional candidate Ron Paul and California state senate and house hopefuls Gil Ferguson and Chris Norby.

The unexpected death of Roger MacBride this spring left a major vacancy in the RLFCF, since he was both an RLFCF trustee and its president. In mid-July, RLC Executive Director Eric Rittberg and I were pleased to welcome Dr. Matthew Monroe as he accepted the RLC's invitation to become the new RLFCF president. Monroe, a Houston-area cardiologist, has been involved in libertarian causes for over 20 years, including support for Ron Paul during his previous congressional service.

He also served as the Libertarian Party's finance chair in the mid-1980s and published the independent monthly newspaper *American Libertarian*.

The RLC is growing faster than ever, with an average of 50 new prospect names being added each month, along with dozens of new members. Our new 800-number, internet home page and advertising program are all yielding solid results.

But while increased membership and benefits from our new dues structure are exceeding expectations, a number of factors have contributed to a serious shortfall from the RLC's major donor fund raising efforts. All of our vendors have been kept current except for payments to our Executive Director Eric Rittberg, who is a modestly paid consultant to our organization. Eric understands the situation and has been very patient, but the RLC must meet its budgeted obligations to continue our current programs. Executive directors have too eat too!

If we all just chip in \$20 or \$50 right now, we can put this problem behind us and Barbara Rittberg won't lose any more sleep trying to balance the family checkbook! Please send contributions to the Republican Liberty Caucus, 1717 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 434, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Contributions for the RLFCF should be mailed to 10878 Westheimer, Suite 395, Houston, TX 77042. (No corporate checks, please.) If we are to continue our recent dramatic progress and solidify the Republican revolution in the 1996 elections, we have to be willing to pay the small price that our political freedom requires.

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# RLC Meets the Press

## National Media Turns Focus on 'Libertarian Insurgency'

by Eric J. Rittberg

The national media has finally noticed the libertarian Republican revolution and has produced a flurry of reports on Republican Liberty Caucus activities in recent months.

In June, the RLC's battle on Capitol Hill to eliminate funding for the Selective Service System sparked the interest of *Congressional Quarterly* reporter Karen Foerstal. She wrote a short piece on the Selective Service fight and the RLC for CQ's *Daily Monitor*.

A more extensive piece by Foerstal, "Libertarians gaining ground on Hill," appeared in the *Washington Times* on Wednesday, July 5. It also appeared in the new nationwide *Washington Times* weekly edition.

Foerstal wrote: "As Republican efforts to reduce the size and power of the federal government continue to grow, so does the libertarian influence in Congress. The Republican Liberty Caucus, a national libertarian group with headquarters in Florida, has hired its first-ever Capitol Hill lobbyist because it expects to have a more successful run than ever at scaling back the federal government's reach into people's lives."

RLC lobbyist Mike Griffin was then quoted, as was Rep. J.D. Hayworth of Arizona. The other RLC-affiliated Congressman were listed. The article then talked of the lawmakers efforts to organize a Constitutional Liberty Caucus. The last three paragraphs focused on RLC stances on the issues mainly opposition to federally mandated speed limits and seat belt and helmet laws.

The Foerstal piece quickly generated interest from other national media. The morning it appeared, Bill Cerveney, producer of John McLaughlin's *One On One* syndicated television show, called RLC headquarters. Cerveney wanted more info and inquired about the possibility of getting an RLC representative onto the show.

After some schedule shuffling, RLC managed to get Rep. John Shadegg to agree to appear. The show was to be on the "libertarian insurgency." It also included Edward Crane, president of the Cato Institute.

Getting Shadegg proved to be a smart move. He represented the organization very positively in both appearance and presentation.

McLaughlin began the show with a somewhat hard barrage of questions on the tough civil liberties issues. Shadegg distanced himself from the more extreme libertarian views. Crane seemed more willing to identify himself with the entire civil liberties agenda

On Congress, Shadegg talked of his and other freshmen congressmen's commitment to reducing the size and scope of the federal government. He was particularly articulate on the matter of ending federal mandates, private property rights and Constitutional principles.

**In recent months,  
the Republican Liberty Caucus  
was featured in *Congressional  
Quarterly's Daily Monitor*,  
*Washington Times*, *Insight  
Magazine* and on CNN and  
John McLaughlin's syndicated  
*One on One* program.**

"The American people are fed up with a federal government that has claimed it can solve all their problems, that over regulates and overtaxes," said Shadegg.

He went on to say that "what you have is the libertarian philosophy pulling the Republican Party."

Regarding the RLC specifically Shadegg said it's "an arm of the Republican Party, it helps candidates who have libertarian beliefs or leanings get elected, and that's the direction in which the party is headed."

The show was aired over the weekend of July 8 and 9 on cable and PBS stations throughout the country, including most major media markets such as: Orlando, Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, San Francisco, Baltimore and New York.

During this period the RLC also got a small plug on CNN. On Saturday, July 1, CNN continuously ran a news clip on the Young Republican National Convention held in Atlanta. The clip included a close-up shot of the RLC information booth with the group's banner clearly visible (see photo on page 7).

The next break came with the July 24 edition of *Insight Magazine*, a newsweekly associated with the *Washington Times* with a circulation of nearly 100,000.

Reporter Michael Rust did a full-page story on "Libertarians in the Big Tent," with the subheading "The Republican Liberty Caucus hopes to harness libertarian momentum for the GOP." The story ran on page 12 right after a cover story piece on the Libertarian Party, which also included two paragraphs on the RLC.

The article highlighted RLC leaders Roger MacBride and Ron Paul, the appeal of libertarian Republicans to younger voters, the ability of GOP libertarians to work with both conservatives and moderates, libertarian Republicans in state legislatures and Congress, and finally, the differing strategies of the RLC and LP. The piece was accompanied by a color photo in the center of RLCers at the Republican Convention in Houston in 1992.

In the back of the magazine, on page 23, in the *Washington In Brief* section, there was yet another article on the RLC. The four-paragraph piece, "Libertarians Field Lobbyist on the Hill" by John Elvin, centered on RLC efforts in Congress.

# RLC State Legislators Pursue Lower Taxes and Less Government

by Eric J. Rittberg

RLC state legislators held a "mini-caucus" at the recent American Legislative Exchange Council conference in San Diego. Colorado Rep. Penn Pfiffner posted a "note to caucus" on the bulletin board. Two RLCers responded: freshman California Assmb. Steve Baldwin and Jason Turner, a staffer in Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson's office. The three discussed legislative efforts and the "lonely world of being a serious budget cutter" over lunch.

Pfiffner has been busy in a sort of "budget cutters" caucus which often includes Reps. Mark Pascal and Jim Congrove. As a member of the Sunrise-Sunset Committee in the House, Pfiffner has successfully led efforts to kill seven out of eight redundant advisory boards and to scale back on licensing requirements. He's even begun to hold unofficial seminars for Budget Committee staffers on how to implement cuts.

The Michigan Legislature has just completed its first six months under Republican control. Rep. Greg Kaza (Troy/Rochester Hills) played a key role during the session. Kaza cosponsored Public Acts 2 and 3 increasing the personal income tax exemption from \$2,100 to \$2,500 by 1997 and a bill to exempt gold coin sales from the state sales tax.

On the regulatory front, Kaza sponsored HB 4616 which would permit credit unions to charge market rates. The bill was passed as part of a compromise package on usury law reform and now goes on to the Senate. Kaza opposed further regulation of the travel industry by requiring agencies to carry at least \$1 million in insurance. His "no" vote was insufficient to stop the bill which passed the House 92-1.

Kaza co-sponsored HB 4628, a bill to liberalize helmet laws, which narrowly failed by eight votes. He also fought unsuccessfully against a forced sterilization of animals bill. HB 4654 would compel pet owners to pay a deposit at the time of adoption to be credited toward the cost of sterilization. It passed 59-40. Finally, Kaza was one of only five legislators to vote against the prohibition of the purple loosestrife, a non-native but common roadside plant in Michigan which the DNR claims degrades wetland habitat.

State Sen. Bob Hedlund recently filed a bill to increase competition in the funeral industry. In Massachusetts, family members who request cremation are required to first purchase a casket rather than rent specially designed caskets that are much cheaper. The purpose of the law, according to the *Boston Globe*, is to help "stop the spread of contagious diseases through bodily fluids." Hedlund's Bill to allow for rentals was favorably passed out of the Joint Health Care Committee. Gov. William Weld also backs it. He said in the *Globe*: "Hedlund and I are both libertarians. Why prohibit it?" Hedlund also presented a bill to legalize tattooing to the Health Care Committee. The bill, which is being pushed by Libertarian Party lobbyist Joe Bonni, has made it out of committee.

New Mexico Sen. Duncan Scott has suffered a stinging defeat. The state courts recently overturned his term limits initiative for the Albuquerque City Council which was previously passed by the

voters.

Kansas Rep. Clay Aurand, who serves on the House's Tax Committee, was involved in successful efforts to push through legislation to cut taxes on new home construction, utilities and automobiles. Though efforts in the legislature to pass a tax and spending limitation amendment to the state constitution failed to garner the needed two-thirds.

Aurand surprised his conservative colleagues at the end of session by voting "yea" on a couple gambling measures.

## New York RLC Plays Key Role in Intra-Party Elections

by David Greene

The 1995 Brooklyn Republican County Committee elections are under way and the county's libertarian Republican contingent is backing a slate of an unprecedented 168 candidates.

This triumph of local organizing did not appear from nowhere. In February of 1991, Gary Popkin, a lifelong libertarian and a resident of Brooklyn, made his first foray into elective politics by running in a special election for a New York City Council seat. He lost in the nonpartisan race but received a respectable 7 percent in a nine-way race.

Most of Popkin's campaign workers were registered Republicans, and in June of that year, Popkin and his friends decided to do something unheard-of in Brooklyn politics - they would put themselves on the ballot for the Brooklyn Republican committee without the support of their local district leader. The insurgent effort proved 100 percent successful - all seven candidates won.

Popkin's local district leader was impressed, and in 1993 she ran 30 of Popkin's people on her slate. Twenty-seven won.

In 1994, with the full support of the Brooklyn Republican Party, Popkin ran for Congress as the Republican nominee. He was the Libertarian Party candidate as well (this is permitted in New York State). Popkin lost in his liberal district to the incumbent, Rep. Major Owens.

For this year's elections, Popkin and company recruited and achieved ballot access for 68 candidates. Beyond this, they have teamed up with two giants of libertarian Republican politics - Gerry O'Brien and Joseph Gentili - endorsing their slates of candidates. The total number of candidates now endorsed by the libertarians now has reached 168, plus two state committee candidates.

O'Brien, a Republican state committeeman, is the former president of the Libertarian Republican Alliance, a predecessor of the RLC. Gentili served on the state committee of the New York Libertarian Party for two years and on the state committee of the Republican Party for nine. He is also on the executive committee of the recently formed RLC New York affiliate.

At the first meeting of the New York RLC, Popkin was elected chair, I was elected vice chair and Gentili was elected as at-large executive committee member. The NY RLC is intent on building a statewide organization on a county-by-county basis.

For more information on the NY RLC, call Gary Popkin at (718) 783-0592 or David Greene at (718) 369-3881.

# Ron Paul Back on the Freedom Trail

by Michael Quinn Sullivan

Surrounded by family, friends and supporters, Dr. Ron Paul announced his Republican candidacy for the U.S. Congressional seat of the 14th Texas district.

Stressing his commitment to liberty, private property rights and the slashing of the federal establishment, Dr. Paul's candidacy has been stirring the hearts and imagination of loyal followers and new supporters. The campaign began with a high level of enthusiasm which has left the opposition running scared.

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, Paul's campaign began with a bang, standing in a restaurant and making himself available to the Houston-area media. Within hours the Associated Press was reporting the event with an accuracy unusual for the national media, with stories of Paul's candidacy appearing in newspapers and on radio throughout the region.

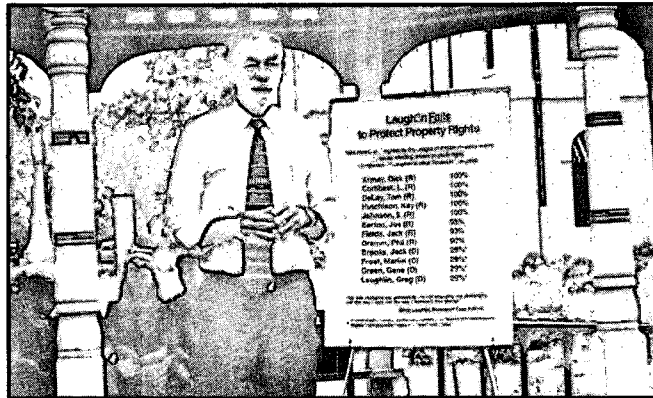
Over the next 24 hours, making a total of five announcement stops around the sprawling district, Paul continued to draw freedom-loving Texans who will vote for Paul in the March primary.

This is bad news for Greg Laughlin, a Democrat who now claims to have converted to the GOP. In fact, one Texas news magazine - the *Texas Republic* - has speculated that Laughlin's sole reason for switching parties was to head off the Ron Paul campaign.

On Aug. 16, Laughlin's fear of the power of Paul's message was seen very clearly at a meeting of the Caldwell County Republican Party executive committee.

The Paul campaign had been invited to the event by the party chairwoman. While Paul was unable to attend, Campaign Consultant Eric Rittberg and Press Secretary Michael Sullivan did.

Arriving early, we waited in the meeting area, having already



Ron Paul officially launches his campaign for Congress.

set out campaign literature.

Storming into the room came Laughlin. We rose and greeted the Congressman, but he had no use for pleasantries. He ranted and raved - complete with red-faced sputtering - that the meeting was to be a private one between him and the county leadership. We stood our ground, saying apologetically that we had been invited, but that we would leave if asked by the leadership.

A few minutes later, the chairwoman arrived and Eric

told her of Laughlin's outburst. He said we would leave if it made her more comfortable. "No, no," she responded, "I personally invited you." She told us to sit down and that she would "take care of Mr. Laughlin." As the meeting began, it became abundantly clear that Laughlin's "private meeting" was in fact the party's monthly meeting. And there were several candidates who had been invited.

Apparently, Laughlin does not yet understand how the Republican party operates. In fact, his whole campaign seems to be based around his status as "insider" and a good friend of Newt Gingrich. Laughlin proudly tells people that he can bring home the pork, that he alone can protect government programs. You can take the boy out of the big government party, but you can't take the big government out of the boy. In contrast is Paul's long-standing - and exceeding popular - message of radically cutting the size and scope of government.

Although the campaign has just begun, the battle lines are already clearly drawn. As the campaign moves forward, and as Paul's message is made clear, the campaign will gain ground with the voters of the 14th District - people who are proud to walk with Dr. Paul...on the freedom trail.

## Dark Horse Charles Collins Seeks Presidential Nod

by Lonnie Brantley

Amidst a field of political old-hands promising the cut the size of government, a genuinely radical anti-statist has appeared to seek the Republican nomination for president.

Charles E. Collins, a wealthy rancher operating out of Georgia and Florida, is seeking the nomination with a populist-style campaign, working the talk-radio circuit and the internet. His campaign has 1,400 contacts in all states and seeks grass roots pressure on state Republican parties to place his name on primary ballots.

Collins, who has no prior political experience, is promising to abolish the IRS and the income tax, abolish inheritance and estate taxes, restore the gold and silver backing of the U.S. dollar and abolish the Federal Reserve. He advocates paying off the national debt with a declining 5 percent national sales tax and the sale of U.S. government assets. He also vows to abolish government agencies not authorized by the U.S. Constitution - that is, nearly all of them.

His populist approach is appealing to many grass roots conservatives - particularly to those aligned with "patriot" or militia-style organizations. An opponent of NAFTA and GATT, Collins espouses several conspiracy theories and claims that the 1996 election may be last chance for a constitutional revolt before the U.S. is subsumed by world government.

While it is easy to dismiss Collins as a fringe candidate, he does represent a growing element among conservatives and has attracted some libertarian interest in his budget-slashing and pro-Constitutional themes.

For more information, write Charles E. Collins for President, P.O. Box 27, Forsyth, GA 31029; or call (912) 994-8219; or fax (912) 994-7995.

*Ed. Note - Lonnie Brantley is a Houston-based RLC activist who has worked in several of Ron Paul's campaigns and in the 1992 Jim Broyles and 1994 Steve Stockman congressional campaigns.*

## Capitol Hill...from page 1

OR) brought it to the floor as an amendment. Two of our members rose to defend it - Metcalf and Foley - but it was still defeated 227-175.

The Selective Service bill is the first of three issues which the RLC has taken on in its first DC lobbying effort. The other two are repealing the federal mandates on states regarding 1) national maximum speed limits and 2) motorcycle helmets.

The RLC board and I, as RLC's Washington lobbyist, established several criteria to be met before deciding which issues to tackle this year.

- As the RLC is new to lobbying, the issues chosen must be uncomplicated to explain and promote.
- Since the RLC has limited financial resources, the legislation must not place a heavy burden on operations.
- The DC operation is a one-man show and the scope and time requirements must reflect that.

- The RLC board wants to pursue an issue on which all the congressional members can agree upon. By having them together on the first issues, they will be more willing to stick together on more difficult ones.

- The issue had to have quick resolution and a vote in 1995 so that the RLC could demonstrate a definable record of success. The big issues will take a number of years before significant results can be identified.

The speed limit and helmet law repeal efforts were a natural as I have experience on these issues as a member of the American Motorcyclists Association. In addition, these bills are part of the state powers debate which conservative members of Congress are also glad to be part of. So far 100 percent of Congressional RLC members have signed on as cosponsors of the two bills. Both bills have cleared the Senate and parts of the House. We are awaiting their resolution in September.

Until now, many members of the Republican National Committee and the U.S. Congress are not even aware the RLC exists. The RLC's lobbying efforts corrects this situation and introduces us to Congressional staffers, many of which are libertarians.

The RLC's lobbying efforts have also brought unprecedented media coverage about our philosophy and our organization.

## RLC Liberty Roundtable

in honor of Roger Lea MacBride

• • • • •

*Michael McCroskey, finance chair; Melinda Pillsbury-Foster; Craig Franklin; Dr. Jeffrey Singer; Patrick Quin; Bill Hunscher; Dr. Pierre Rioux*

Roundtable members provide input and suggestions on issues and strategy through meetings and other communications with the RLC leadership and elected officials

If you would like to join this distinguished group, contact Michael McCroskey in Tennessee at (615) 436-6288.

## Notable News

### '96 Campaign Briefs

U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley's (D-NJ) decision not to run for reelection clears the path for a strong bid by libertarian-leaning Republican Rep. Dick Zimmer of the 12th District. Zimmer has already raised nearly \$2 million to take Bradley's seat. He also has strong backing from Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's Senatorial Election Committee. Zimmer still has to contend with two weaker primary opponents, Freeholder Richard DuHaime (running on a strictly pro-life platform) and another lesser-known candidate.

Talk-show host and libertarian-conservative Ronna Romney currently leads the list of GOP possibilities for the Senate seat from Michigan. Romney barely lost out in the primary to now U.S. Sen. Spence Abraham in 1994.

Another libertarian-conservative, Rick Dykema, staffer for Rep. Dana Rohrabacher is putting the word out that he plans to challenge moderate Republican Rep. Steve Horn in southern California. In Kentucky, fiscally conservative/socially tolerant GOPer Ann Northrup has raised over \$115,000 for her race in the heavily Democratic District 3.

### Comedian Comes Out "Libertarian"

Co-star of the latest film *The Net*, Dennis Miller is known for his sardonic humor and biting political satire. Miller, also a veteran of *Saturday Night Live*, HBO and the late-night talk show circuit, often takes a libertarian view on issues. In a recent *L.A. Daily News* piece he posited "If anything, mine are the politics of pragmatism. If I had to say they leaned in any direction, I think of myself as a conservative. A conservative libertarian. In my everyday life, I'm an exceedingly conservative man. But if somebody wants to shoot up or get a prostitute, that's not my business. We're wasting time on that. That's humankind."

### Weld Watch

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld has turned out to be a very mixed bag for the libertarian Republican community. Weld, who frequently refers to himself as a libertarian Republican, managed to outrage libertarians in his first term with his backsliding on the right to keep and bear arms and his fiscally accommodationist policies. In June he further distanced himself from libertarianism by backing affirmative action.

Though many are suspicious of his motives (some have speculated a planned run against Sen. John Kerry in 1998), Weld now appears to be once again reaching for the libertarian mantle. The *Boston Globe*, Friday, Aug. 4, reported on a new Weld initiative that "would be a 'radical' effort to dismantle and restructure state bureaucracies." Said Weld to a gathering at the free market-oriented Pioneer Institute: "This is not about shaving and planning; this is about carving a whole new totem from the ground up." He continued, "I'm not arguing here that government ought to do more with less; I'm saying government ought to do less with less." He was, however, short on specifics. He then responded to Democratic critics who cite his lack of effectiveness, "We Republican gover-

nors have an obligation to support efforts to cut government at the layer above us, by not scrambling over each other to bring home pork and bacon."

Weld was also quoted recently in the gay/lesbian newspaper *The Washington Blade*, urging homosexuals to build bridges with conservative Republicans rather than castigating them. At one point he even defended Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition and criticized gay efforts to force others to tolerate their life-style such as in Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade. "The truth, said Weld, is that the 'traditional Republican values' — among which he included small government, individual liberty, the right to privacy, libertarianism — 'are all on your side.'" On the GOP leadership he commented, "talk to them about small government...the right to privacy ...libertarianism...and about a balanced budget and lower taxes."

## Ayn Rand Revival

In the July 24 edition of *The New Yorker Magazine* Claudia Roth Pierpont has written an extensive chronology of the life of famed novelist and libertarian icon Ayn Rand. Pierpont delves deeply into Rand's childhood in Russia, her years spent in Hollywood, her stormy love affair with Nathaniel Branden and the profound influence of her novels. She describes Rand as the "Camille Paglia of the '60s," a passionately sexual and individualistic feminist years ahead of her time. On her philosophical influence, Pierpont writes, "Libertarians have propelled many of her most cherished antigovernment ideas into the new forefront of American politics."

The *Letters of Ayn Rand*, a 681-page book from Dutton (New York) has just been published. Republican Congressman Chris Cox of California recently wrote a favorable review of the work in the *New York Times Book Review*. Wrote Cox: "Rand's personal papers are especially readable because they are logical and focused. She doesn't ramble like other mortals...Like her formal writings, these letters constitute an important part of Ayn Rand's intellectual contribution...filled with flashes of emotional insight, surprising facts and unintended humor."

Of most excitement to Randians is the prospect of a movie version of *Atlas Shrugged*. *Freedom Network News* reports in its June/July issue that screenwriter Benedict Fitzgerald (*Zelda* and *Heart of Darkness*) has been signed to pen the screenplay. Atlas Productions plans a \$50 million budget for the feature adaptation according to *Variety*.

## GOP Presidential Primary Notes

The *Houston Chronicle* reported, June 14, that Sen. Phil Gramm, has "endorsed repealing the 16th Amendment to the Constitution." Gramm said he supported a "consumption-based tax or a flat tax, but that the 16th Amendment must be repealed to make sure the income tax does not come back."

Sen. Arlen Specter has signed on famed Reagan for President strategist Roger Stone (ex-husband of libertarian Republican Ann Stone, also a Specter supporter) as his campaign manager. Stone commented in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 22 that "the religious-right social agenda menaces the party's electoral prospects, and the Specter campaign has become his vehicle for rallying libertarian-minded Republicans against the threat." He goes on to



*In late June RLC activists attended the Young Republican National Convention held in Atlanta. RLCers participated in platform debates and the presidential straw poll, passed out hundreds of pieces of literature, recruited new members and signed up over 50 prospects for the mailing list. From left to right: Tom Walls, Jay Taylor, Eric Rittberg, Laura Kotelman and Jeff Shapiro.*

warn that Clinton will use the Christian Coalition and their fringe as "the noose around Republicans' necks" in 1996. But despite Specter's repeated references to himself as a "social libertarian" most movement libertarians remain skeptical of the senator due to his big spending voting record.

Angela "Bay" Buchanan, chairman of her brother Pat's campaign for president, raised a few eyebrows recently with an appearance on C-SPAN's *Journalist Roundtable* where she called for "continuation of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts." Buchanan argued that the only thing wrong with the NEA at present was that it gave too much funding to questionable art, and that the agency could be used to fund art that would further enhance American culture such as symphonies and the opera. She stated that if it was "left up to market forces, all we'd be left with would be rock music and gangster rap."

## Blake...from page 1

consideration from my office."

Blake responded in the *Birmingham News* of Feb. 2, 1994: "It was a cute political ploy to divert attention from the city's violation of the state's bid law...You do have to wonder about the timing, what with the letter being released to the media at the same time as the council vote on Motorola." Since that time a federal judge has nullified the contract, and said that the consultant that was hired was a "con man." The mayor has become so upset with Blake's antics that in a recent TV appearance he called Blake a "jackass."

During his current campaign, Blake plans to stress the themes of individual rights and limited government, thus echoing the message that helped elect current Alabama Gov. Fob James (R), a personal friend of Blake's.

Other contenders for the GOP's Senate nomination are Arab, Ala., businessman Sid McDonald, Mobile lawyer Frank McRight, former Public Service Commissioner Jim Ziegler and Birmingham podiatrist Walter Clark. Another possible entrant into the race could be current Alabama Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was recently behind an attempt to increase the state's penalties for individuals caught with possessing "indecent" material.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Sept. 22** An Evening with RLC  
Chair Ron Paul - Phoenix  
**Oct. 6-8** Advocates For Self-  
Government 10th Anniv. Summit  
- Atlanta  
**Nov. 11-12** RLC National  
Convention - Santa Barbara, CA  
**Nov. 17-18** Florida GOP Presi-  
dency III Convention - Orlando

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