

American Libertarian

An Independent
Libertarian
Newspaper
Vol. 2 No. 11
June 1988
\$2.00

Birmingham Libs Kill \$110 Million Tax Hike

Birmingham, AL - Thanks to the work of a dedicated core of Libertarian Party activists, Birmingham taxpayers were spared a \$110 million dollar property tax hike which "seemed like a forgone conclusion" for passage just weeks before the May 10 election, according to one libertarian observer. Credit for defeat rests largely with Alabama LP chair Frank Monachelli (also chair of the Birmingham party), who personally led the effort and devised a multi-faceted strategy to defeat an entrenched city political machine.

Background

While LP candidates have rarely fared well at the polls, libertarian influenced opposition to local tax increases has a far better record. And in some ways, Birmingham provides a good case study on how this kind of political success can be accomplished.

The largest city in the state, Birmingham has a population of about 300,000. It is the major industrial and media center and has approximately 165,000 registered voters. An early and bloody battleground for the civil rights movement in the sixties, and largely hemmed in by surrounding white suburbs, the city is now governed by a black mayor, Richard Arrington, who reportedly has higher political ambitions. His hometown political machine is called the New South Coalition.

Two years ago a property tax increase was defeated by a 2-to-1 margin largely due to the efforts of the "Taxbuster" coalition, a group which included libertarians but which was largely sponsored by other groups. Last year, a library tax was defeated despite well documented charges by the Birmingham LP and its bi-monthly locally targeted newsletter *Common Sense* that pro-tax increase forces were being funded by the city in violation of state law. Legal action over that by the LP is still pending.

And Birmingham taxpayers are none too happy about the newly enacted "occupation tax" this year, which amounts to a city income tax. And there is considerable dissatisfaction with the way the city has used its tax money in the past, including 70%

of city backed loans to various groups which are currently in default. Some of the better known deadbeats, courtesy of the city's taxpayers, are the now defunct Birmingham Stallions USFL pro football franchise which received millions, and a private road project to a local horse track that went belly up.

In the recent election, there were nine separate issues covering a number of "needed" items, from parks and sewers, to two new museums (including a civil rights museum proposal), along with an extension of current local school taxes for another twenty years, from 1997 to 2017 (planning ahead early, it would appear).

Although this history of successful tax defeats and wasted tax money along with the mostly less-than-critical nature of the projects to be funded might indicate a better than average chance of defeat, just weeks before the election there was no organized opposition. All the local media, civic and business groups, and politicians lined up behind higher taxes. Only the small LP group decided to enter the fray in opposition.

It was a tall order, particularly since this was seen as a test of strength for mayor Arrington and his machine. The black mayor is very popular with the heavily black population of the city, and his precincts routinely show higher percentages of voter participation in local elections than do the neighboring white suburbs.

Libertarian Game Plan

Asked about the ultimate secret of his success, LP chair Monachelli observed, "about a month before the election, I drew up a detailed list of ten or so steps and actions we needed to accomplish. Everything we planned not only worked, but worked better than expected."

Initially, news media support for the tax opponents was non-existent, if not outright hostile. But slowly, day by day, as various tactics were employed and information disseminated, the climate of opinion shifted. Towards the end of the effort the prestigious *Birmingham Business Journal*, received by 15,000 top business and civic leaders, editorially called into question the fundamental premise behind the tax hike.

On election night, Monachelli said he predicted victory early, based upon patterns of turnout from various key areas, and was right on the money when he predicted it would fail by a two-to-one margin. In the end, the 25.75% turnout (in contrast to a prior year bond vote turnout of 10%) signaled the victory for the Libertarians. Overall, all nine measures were defeated by a total of approximately 25,000 to 14,000 with the margin varying on the particular issues. The

Continued page 3



VP candidate Andre Marrou responds to a questioner at a luncheon address in Indianapolis, at the Indiana LP state convention.

Presidential Campaign Heats Up; Paul Adds Staff

Houston, TX - The campaigns of Ron Paul and Andre Marrou continue in full swing, limited only by time, money and the necessary diversion of attention to securing ballot status.

Paul Campaign

The Paul campaign has secured the services of David James, an energetic campaign fundraising consultant who has a long record of raising significant funds for conservatives, particularly in North Carolina for Jesse Helms's multimillion dollar Congressional Club.

James, 40, began political work with California's 1978 Proposition 13 anti-property tax initiative and has worked in a number of campaigns in various states. A California native, his recent activities include administering education projects in Washington DC, where he was based until his recent move to the Paul campaign.

The youthful looking James's fundraising operation has been in full swing since mid-April, operating out of the Paul Houston campaign headquarters, which recently tripled its floorspace to accommodate the growing campaign. James has been working on a series of large donor fundraisers across the country, and has been making effective use of one-on-one contacts with sympathetic potential donors. James has also recently taken over the telephone fundraising operation previously handled by Alexis Thompson & Associates from Tucson. (Thompson, who has handled all or part of the LP's pioneering telemarketing effort since 1983, was also replaced by an in-house operation at the national LP office).

And James's work is beginning to pay off. Among the other fundraising chores, he is arranging fundraisers in California for June

and later, and has reactivated a former LP donor, Jim Rogers, in New York City. Rogers, who several years ago actively supported the NYC LP, has agreed to host a fundraising event for the Paul campaign in his 27-room Riverside Drive mansion. Rogers is well known in New York financial circles and has enjoyed considerable success in the stock market, where he has been referred to as "the great short seller of Wall Street". According to campaign sources, as of late May the Paul campaign will have raised nearly \$800,000 since inception, and the separate (but related) LP Ballot Access Committee will have taken in over \$160,000 since the beginning of the year.

According to many observers, including Ed Clark, the Paul campaign is now well ahead of the comparable pace of the 1980 Clark LP presidential campaign. Paul has been making continuous trips across the country and generating considerable local media and newspaper coverage. He has begun to crack larger media markets, with favorable reports in the *Chicago Tribune* and Seattle papers during recent visits, and even received coverage from the *LA Times*, a feat which eluded LA resident Ed Clark in 1980. However, the *LA Times* piece was a mixed blessing, with downbeat emphasis (headline: "Libertarian Plods On - Alone and Unheard") on the difficulty of a Libertarian candidate to attract attention, being the least positive campaign news reportage to date. However, even bad coverage is better than none at all.

Far more encouraging has been the recent endorsement Paul received from Larry Pratt, Executive Director of Gun Owners of America Inc., a large pro-gun ownership

Continued page 2

In this issue:

News Flashes!
page 5

Advocates De-Fritzing
page 6

CQE Fails
page 7

Campaigns Receive Endorsements; Press Coverage Good

From page 1
group.

In late April and May Ron Paul made campaign swings through New England, principally Vermont and New Hampshire, where he made a special effort to talk to all 30 voters in the resort community of Dixville Notch, NH, traditionally the place from which the first presidential vote totals are reported. The campaign is hopeful that a sizable chunk of those first votes reported will be for the LP slate.

Campaign sources also report a very successful campaign trip through the major cities in Alaska, following the late February Marrou-Means visit earlier this year. Paul was greeted by 35 sign waving and cheering supporters upon arrival in Fairbanks and received a good turnout of news media and supporters at press events and at the state LP convention. In Juneau, former LP state representative Ken Fanning (now a Republican), who was recently appointed to fill a vacancy as State Senator, was on hand to greet Paul and agreed to join a "Republicans for Paul" group. His visit was also heralded by Anchorage newspapers and received good TV coverage. The campaign reports a revitalized local LP presence in that state's largest city.

Next on tap for Paul is a visit to North Dakota, which has a tiny official LP presence but is hosting an open presidential preference primary (or poll, more accurately), where Paul will have his first opportunity in the campaign to match up with Bush, Jackson and Dukakis in a statewide election. Paul is going to concentrate on reaching potential special interest groups favoring his candidacy, including gun owners, tax protest groups and free market oriented farm organizations. However, since voters will get a "party ballot" and there are no "down ticket" LP local candidates, the Paul campaign is unsure of how well he'll actually do.

Marrou Campaign

The Marrou LP Vice President campaign, which is separately financed and managed from the Paul campaign, has also been active, with the Las Vegas-based Marrou running virtually full time in a series of nationwide campaign sweeps.

In late February he and former LP presidential candidate Russell Means toured major cities in Marrou's home state of Alaska, and in March the VP candidate toured Georgia, Florida, Oregon and Washington.

He and Ron Paul also appeared jointly in Las Vegas appearances at area high schools and at a fundraising event. Marrou also boosted interest in a radio talk show appearance by Paul, with radio commercials sponsored by local businesses.

Marrou visited the mid-west when he attended the Indianapolis LNC meeting, and spoke at the Indiana LP state convention. He was interviewed by the ABC TV affiliate and local newspapers there and gave a strong performance, focusing on the difficulty of LP ballot access.

Marrou reports that he has raised \$30,000-\$40,000 in contributions towards a hoped-for quarter million dollar total campaign budget. He is regularly producing a campaign newsletter and other campaign materials. As part of his effort to encourage grassroots LP development and spread the benefits of his campaign efforts, Marrou is also sending out his prospect names list of interested supporters to various libertarian groups and organizations.

Addresses

The candidates and their campaigns can be contacted at:

Ron Paul for President Committee, 1120 Nasa Blvd., Suite 104, Houston, TX 77058, (713) 333-1988.

Andre Marrou for Vice President, 5143 Blanton Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89122 (702) 435-3218. ■

North Dakota Primary Results a Surprise

Houston, TX - Ron Paul campaign staffers were pleased to learn that preliminary reports from the North Dakota preference primary poll (non binding) indicated that Paul received about 1.5% of the vote in the state's two largest cities.

The results were available from Bismark and Fargo (but not statewide) and were considered respectable since only Bush and a woman who claimed God told her to run were on the ticket along with Paul. And the LP ballot had no contested lower races, in contrast to the GOP ballot. There was no Democratic ballot.

Although Paul visited the state and ran some radio and TV spots, the ND LP is very small, and the Paul camp was encouraged that his campaign attracted enough visibility to get over 1% in an election where there was little reason for voters to go to the polls and vote in the LP primary. ■

Converting the Heathens

San Diego, CA - In a late May appearance in San Diego, Ron Paul met with Chula Vista Municipal Judge Thomas Gligorea before the banquet. Gligorea, described as a "life-long Republican", was interested in libertarian ideas but had problems with the draft issue.

After reading Paul's **Freedom Under Siege** campaign book (which has a long section on the draft) from cover to cover, Gligorea told Paul he was convinced that he was a libertarian after all. Paul suggested that he announce this to the audience at the banquet.

In front of 200 people the Judge announced he was re-registering as a Libertarian and would run for re-election as a Libertarian.

According to Paul campaign sources, he is the first judge known to be a Libertarian Party member and one of nearly 100 people in the nation since 1987 who hold public office as Libertarians. ■

Paul Speaks Out On Drug Legalization

Washington, DC - While the major party presidential hopefuls vie for suggesting more and more repressive measures to halt black market drug sales, LP presidential candidate Ron Paul has unexpectedly benefited from the rush to Statism by his major party opponents.

As the only candidate calling for an end to drug prohibition, Paul was invited to address the mid-June national convention of NORML (National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws) in Wash-

ington, DC.

Before an audience of several hundred, Paul said he was "very comfortable" speaking to the group and said "only government could take a perfectly worthless weed, slap a bunch of regulations on it and make it worth its weight in gold."

Paul's speech went over well, and it is reliably reported that he will appear on the cover of the November issue of *High Times*, which will also carry a story about his campaign. ■

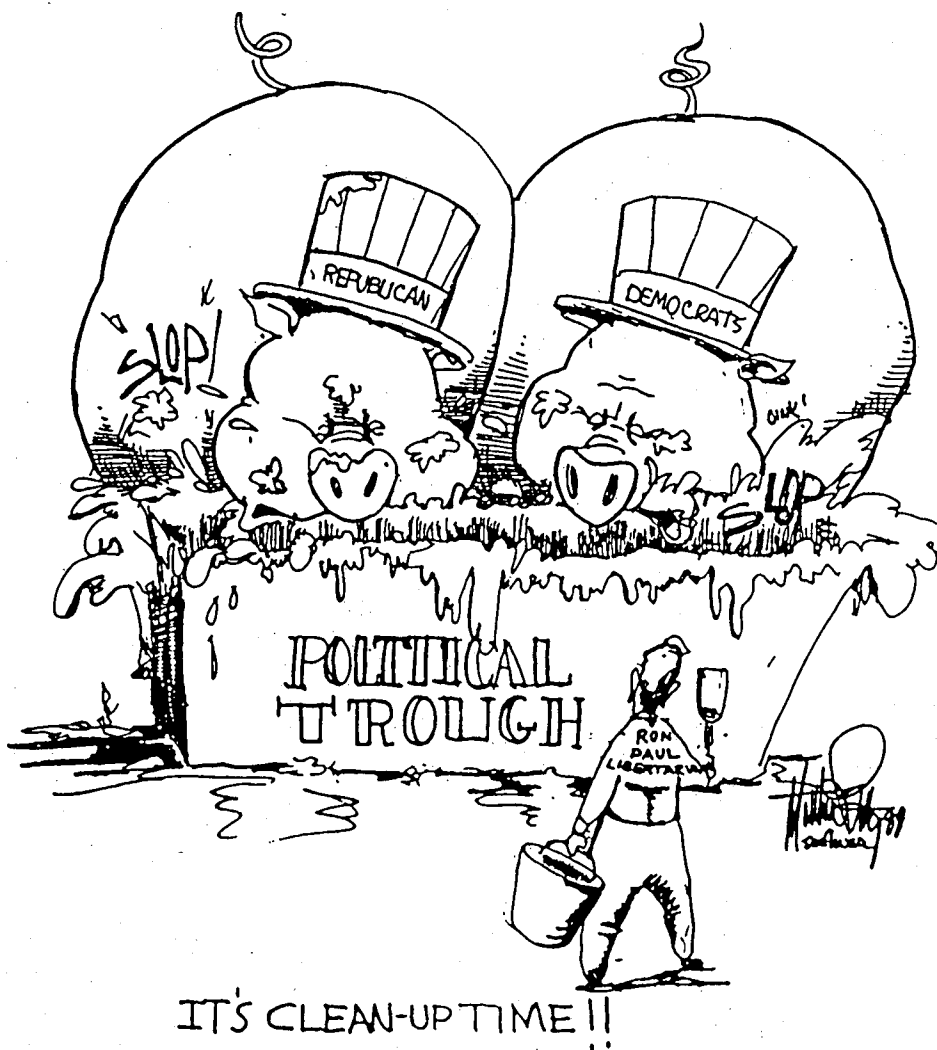
Paul Media Blitz

New York, NY - During a busy East Coast swing which included New York City, where he raised over \$15,000 in a single evening, Ron Paul also made significant inroads with local and national news media.

During mid-June Paul was interviewed by Tom Wicker of the *New York Times* and the national political desk of AP as well as *USA Today*. He also has or will appear on WOR radio, WNBC radio, the controversial Morton Downey TV program, and CBS Morning News. He also appeared on the David Brudnoy talk show program at WBZ in Boston and on WFPR in Baltimore. He had an interview with *Human Events* editors and is scheduled to meet with League of Women Voter representatives in mid-July in hopes of participating in presidential debates.

There are also reports of an impending conservative backlash against Paul, with some insiders predicting that *Human Events* will lead the attack, followed by other establishment conservative publications and groups.

Word on the street is that GOP strategists are recognizing that Bush is unpopular with conservatives whereas Paul is not, and that Paul's LP candidacy is catching on. So GOP conservative gunslingers will be sniping at Paul in hopes of defusing conservative defections from the Bush camp. ■



This cartoon appeared in the Wichita State University student paper, the *Sunflower* on April 18 along with an editorial by David Leffingwell on "Major party choices offer no differences."

Former LP Candidate Nabbed in Alleged Plot

San Antonio, TX - In a torrent of publicity which prominently referred to him as a "Libertarian candidate", 74-year-old tax protester Parker Abell was arrested on May 10 by San Antonio authorities for allegedly plotting to hire the assassination of San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros.

Abell, who has responded by saying "I know I was set up, but good. That accusation is a lot of baloney," as a well known, somewhat cranky "tax patriot" who ran on the LP ticket for Congress in 1982. His "paper" candidacy six years ago appears to be his only libertarian connection, however, although press reports have repeatedly referred to him as a "Libertarian" or "former Libertarian candidate."

In fact, according to Texas LP Secretary Gary Johnson, Abell's national LP membership expired in 1985 and he has had no recent connection or involvement with the state of local LP organization. Abell, who resides in the small town of Natalio west of San Antonio, is described in press accounts as something of an eccentric and he claims to be head of a populist organization, American Patriots, about which little is known.

Honey Lanham, who was Director of the Texas LP in 1982 and who was partially responsible for recruiting Abell as one of 125 candidates for public office in Texas

Continued page 3

Candidate Nabbed

From page 2

that year, was quoted in a *New York Times* article as saying "we knew he was a kook, but not a dangerous kook." Abell's 1982 candidacy was controversial even then, after LP members got word of his non-libertarian pronouncements on subjects like immigration and the draft. However, Texas law prevented the LP from removing Abell as a candidate and it was decided in light of the circumstances (Abell received no publicity and few votes) it was best to ignore him.

Although news accounts referred to Abell as a "Libertarian" despite his lack of involvement in the LP, state wire service accounts also included Gary Johnson's disavowal of Abell's actions and mentioned the LP's non-initiation of force principle. Local San Antonio media coverage also included statements from Texas LP Director Dianne Pilcher disassociating the LP from Abell's actions.

According to press reports, Abell represented something of a one-man crusade against local taxes and the grand jury system. He was well known to authorities for his letters to officials protesting taxes and he reportedly carried "execution warrants" issued by the "Sovereign Court of the People" which were blank when arrested. Apparently, IRS undercover agents befriended Abell and steered him to an undercover police agent posing as a hit man after Abell allegedly began discussing killing government officials.

Whether Abell is of sound mind is one question: whether he was encouraged or entrapped by the government is another. But one thing seems clear — his depiction as a "libertarian" or "Libertarian candidate" is something of an exaggeration of the facts.

And his situation also illustrates the dangers of the Libertarian Party's recruitment of "paper candidates" to hold ballot positions, particularly those of unknown character. ■

Tax Hike Killed

From page 1

potentially popular civil rights museum measure did strongest, but overall it was turnout that mattered. Predominately white areas turned out 35-40%, while black voters only managed an unusually low 10%.

The day after the election, when the crestfallen mayor admitted to the press he was going to "reassess his political future," a TV reporter went door-to-door and interviewed a number of black voters about why they stayed home. Their answer: they said they didn't need another tax. And while they didn't want to openly oppose the popular mayor, they simply "voted with their feet" and stayed home.

Monachelli said some of the news media immediately tried to portray the election as black-versus-white, but he noted that convincing evidence to the contrary (such as the TV report) mitigated that view. There was an editorial acknowledgement from the major newspaper that race wasn't the main factor, economics was. Another example: one black LP supporter worked hard in two "black box" areas against the measure. The result, a whopping 40% black voter turnout which opposed the tax hike!

"We began to hear this racial angle argued shortly before the election," Monachelli said, "particularly in light of the civil rights museum idea, which was opposed by some whites for the wrong reason. We countered this difficult issue creatively and head on with a libertarian stance: we put out a release favoring a private civil rights

museum, paid for by donations and admissions, which would include exhibits about Americans of all ethnic backgrounds. Everyone who has struggled for their civil rights - blacks, Irish, Italians, Japanese, Chinese, Polish - everyone."

As the ten-point anti-tax campaign was implemented — much of which centered on attracting news media attention to opposition arguments — the climate of opinion shifted from unthinking support to critical analysis, to ultimately, outright rejection. More importantly, the ability to get the message out motivated voters to go to the polls and vote.

The day after the defeat, Frank Monachelli's photo in front of the first ballot boxes brought in was on the front page of the *Birmingham News*, along with the story of the defeat. The news media even covered the LP victory party held at the Birmingham press club. Victory, indeed, was sweet.

What Worked

Asked about specific factors which affected the election, Monachelli and Birmingham LP activist Steve Smith cited several key developments:

- While tax proponents argued that the increased levies (totaling 7.8 mils per hundred dollars taxable property) would only raise the average homeowners taxes \$30-45 per year, unmentioned was the fact that by law, the county had to revalue all city and county property every five years. The notices of revalued land assessments (which were invariably upward) were due out just days after the election. These higher land and property values, coupled with a new tax increase, would likely boost taxes four to five times as much as tax increase advocates claimed. After some investigative digging, Monachelli got county tax appraisers to estimate average revaluation increases to be 12-15%, and the prior two revaluations were 15% and 20% respectively.

Of course, no one but the Libertarians were pointing this out initially. Finally, frustrated with the news blackout, Monachelli issued press releases and printed these facts in the *Common Sense* newsletter. The story finally got out. And when it did, people began to question tax proponents about this and other hidden aspects to their plan.

And fortunately (or perhaps more than that) the county tax office mailed out the notices of revaluation on Friday May 6. While most of the notices going to the city residents mysteriously languished in the main post office until election day, some outlying city taxpayers received notices of whopping future tax increases just days before the election. "A few angry taxpayers called me and said 'but you said the increases were only going to be 15%, mine went up 60%'," Monachelli said. "Of course I had to tell them that's what the county people told me, it wasn't my guarantee." These increases, many arriving in election day mail, helped to drive home the magnitude of the increase to voters and helped build turnout among those who received the bad news in time.

- Frustrated at the slant of news stories, and lacking funds to do other advertising, Monachelli admits he gambled the week before the election. "I had just written my *Common Sense* articles, and I guess I kind of fell in love with it. It's where we blew the lid off the revaluations and the whole story. So we managed to raise about \$10,000, virtually everything we spent in the campaign, and printed up a 2-color newspaper insert to go into the Friday paper, with total circulation of about 165,000. Fortunately, it's the most heavily read edition of the week due to the TV listing booklet, and ours was the only insert that week. Nearly everyone in town had a chance to read our side of things. It had a major impact."

- Angry at rude treatment by the City Council a few weeks before the election when Monachelli went down to warn city fathers not to finance the tax proponents again, as they did in the prior library election, he was told to sit down and go away. But literature advocating the tax increase failed to include notice of who had printed and paid for it in apparent violation of state law. Tax proponents claimed that "concerned citizens" footed the bill, but had no committee named and were evasive. So Monachelli marched down to the District Attorney and filed a complaint requesting an injunction forbidding the city government to subsidize tax increase activities. The city denied it had done so, and the injunction legal hearing is still pending, but the action generated good publicity and positive news coverage, based on the prior experience of similar city shenanigans. It put pro-tax forces on the defensive.

- The LP also tried out several "street theatre" events designed to get tax opponents air time on the evening news. These worked remarkably well according to Monachelli. At one event, anti-tax forces crashed an "invitation only" gathering for civic groups (at which the Downtown Libertarian Supper Club was mysteriously omitted from the invite list), and he requested five minutes for equal time. This was denied. When questions were reluctantly taken (from news media only!) *Common Sense* editor Manachelli got a microphone and announced a rival news conference after the pro-tax "orientation" meeting was over, and he invited the assembled press to stay. The whole affair was televised on local cable TV and it clearly appeared as if the tax proponents had tried to exclude the opposition (which they had).

The fiscally conservative immediate past mayor of Birmingham was also on hand and read a statement opposing the tax. The guerilla press conference was a smashing success!

- On election day itself, hundreds of yard signs were put up along commuter routes into the city and along major streets, urging voters to "speak for themselves" and "vote No". An automatic telephone dialer was rented, and a pre-recorded "tax alert" message was played to all the residents of five telephone exchanges in areas of probable tax opposition.

"We got lots of donations from non-libertarians, and had a lot of help from our terrific volunteers who went to community meetings and spread our message," Monachelli explained. "Lonnie Burford, a relatively new libertarian, was a great help in this fight. I know it's hard to believe, but our campaign effort was so effective that

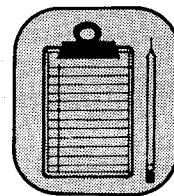
one night we even bumped Reagan and his astrologer to second place on one local TV station!"

Asked about the impact of his "textbook victory", Monachelli said "the victory has ratched us up to a new level of respectability and influence. A lot of new people are calling and writing us, and the media is paying attention. We even took out a small ad in the paper thanking voters for their support."

Libertarians don't have a lot of success stories to learn from, particularly ones in which they nearly singlehandedly led an uphill fight to unexpected victory. But Birmingham libertarians hope this is just the start of more to come.

Those interested in more information about the May 10 tax battle can contact: **Frank Monachelli, 1157 11th Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35205, (205) 322-2991.** ■

Political Notes



Wichita, KS - Well, maybe LeFevre had the last laugh after all. In a March 28, 10th Circuit Federal Court ruling, the Love Box Company of Wichita, KS, found itself on the

losing side of a tax opinion that denied it \$19,000 in corporate tax deductions for Robert LeFevre's seminars on freedom and free enterprise sponsored by the company.

LeFevre's seminars, which mixed free market anarchist theory (dubbed "autarchy" by LeFevre) with basic capitalist economics, were a main source of his income in his later years and were typically sponsored by major companies whose executives were influenced by LeFevre's teachings.

However, the IRS successfully argued that these seminar expenses were not deductible as educational expenses or as goodwill advertising for employees and customers, both of whom attended.

Considering how nearly every other conceivable kind of "seminar" is routinely held to be tax deductible for corporations, one can't help but wonder if the IRS didn't single out LeFevre's uncompromising anti-government workshops for special consideration.

While the IRS may have had the last word, LeFevre had the last laugh. The seminars in question were conducted during 1978-79. LeFevre died in May, 1986.

Salt Lake City, UT - The Beehive State LP is firing up what promises to be its most active

Continued page 5

BUMPERSTICKERS \$3.50 ea.; 2 for \$6; 4 for \$11; plus \$1 shpg.

**Say No To
HIGHER TAXES**

FREE with ea. order (or send \$1, refundable with any purchase) a catalog of books that both

**I Found God's Love in
An EVANGELIST'S PANTS**

REASON and **LIBERTY** refused to advertise, plus descrip-

Government: SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

tions of *dozens more bumper*

**BALANCE THE BUDGET:
Get Government Off Our
GRANDKIDS' BACKS**

stickers, T-shirts, and funny cards.

Send order to The Socratic Press,
P.O. Box 66683-028, St. Peters-

I WAS MUGGED BY THE I.R.S.

burg Beach FL 33736-6683.

**I (Heart) MY WIFE
(She's lot's better than a dog!)**

Satisfaction **ABSOLUTELY**

GUARANTEED on all products

or money will be

promptly refunded.

**Get Government Out of Our Bedrooms, Our
Medicine Cabinets, and Our Pocketbooks.**

© 1988 by John Bryant

Libertarian Outlook

Year Two

We at *American Libertarian* are proud to have completed our second year of publication. Publishing anything regularly in the small world of libertarian activity is difficult, as the large number of now-defunct libertarian publications will attest.

But we believe that what we are doing is important and helps to serve the cause of individual liberty. Libertarians have no lack of theory in most matters, but sometimes we suffer from a lack of exposure to the concrete realities of libertarianism in practice. By focusing on the who, what, where and why of our fellow libertarians, we believe that a better understanding of ourselves emerges and strengthens our cause.

But publishing a newspaper is relatively easy. What's hard is actually doing the large number of sometimes difficult tasks which together constitute the basis for the stories we write. Thousands of people giving of their time and energy (and money, of course) in the belief that they can make a difference. And they do.

So before we get carried away with our second anniversary and bask too long in the warm glow of self congratulation, let's give credit where credit is due. To you, our readers, who make our efforts worthwhile. To our reporters and writers, who make this paper possible. To our advertisers and other supporters, who help pay the bills.

We've come a long way but have much farther to go. We'll try and do better, and attempt to meet our deadlines, although that is sometimes difficult with our small staff. We always enjoy hearing from readers and appreciate your suggestions and help. We extend our thanks to everyone who continues to make this paper possible each month. ■

Zero Tolerance

The election year "silly season" is indeed at hand. Although "silly" hardly describes the police state tactics being advocated and employed by the government in the insane "war" on drugs.

The Coast Guard has been seizing multi-million dollar yachts when they find tiny amounts of marijuana. Even they have been embarrassed a trifle over this lunacy, and have backed down after imposing large fines in the most publicized cases. Yet the government has kept hundreds of confiscated boats and literally thousands of cars and trucks seized at the borders for insignificant amounts of illegal substances.

A "war" has been declared on users of non-government approved substances. "Punish the users!" is the latest battle-cry in this demented and hopeless war against the citizenry, many of whom apparently disagree with the government's choice of legally sanctioned intoxicants. The cry for mandatory drug testing — when arrested, when licensed, after accidents, when involved in any way with government — continues unabated by those desperate to fight a war that has already been lost.

Government agents can legally search your garbage, police dogs can sniff your luggage and mail, bodily fluids can be extracted, propaganda messages are beamed

constantly, property is seized without trial or due process. Now in a new and dangerous escalation, the military will be deployed against U.S. citizens. Like in Vietnam, drug war proponents will not hesitate to destroy this country in order to "save" it.

Oddly enough, administration busybody Surgeon General C. Everett Koop has also recently concluded that cigarettes are as "addicting" as heroin or cocaine. This revelation is likely to boomerang, however, once the millions of former cigarette smokers begin to question the logic of creating a police state to stop behavior which is relatively easily controlled by a little willpower.

We safely predict that the multi-billion dollar tobacco industry, heavily taxed and politically subsidized and protected, will not suffer the same draconian punishments meted out to industries based on equally addictive (according to the government) vegetable substances and powders.

"Name your poison" is a time honored saying reflecting the legitimate American attitude about making your own choices about things to ingest, smoke, or do. Government tyranny has killed off far more people on the planet than has any self-chosen and self-ingested substance of dubious merit.

Creating a fascist police state to control people's choices about what is "good for them" is un-American, un-productive and far more dangerous than any of the alleged evils it is designed to stop.

Libertarians, indeed all Americans who care about individual freedom and responsibility, should have "zero tolerance" for this on-going drug war madness. ■

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. Letters submitted to other publications will not be considered. Send to: Feedback, *American Libertarian*, 21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450.

LROC: "Frustrating and Disappointing"

I was happy to read in the April edition of *American Libertarian* that the LROC is "changing gears," especially after seeing a picture of the LROC booth at the recent California LP convention. As you noted in your March edition, LROC was not allowed a booth at the convention, but none-the-less there they were, all smiles.

It was the opinion of the convention committee that we didn't want opposing political parties represented at the LPC convention. This was included in our contract with the California LPC. Every letter that went out soliciting exhibitors was accompanied by a letter explaining our position, and each exhibitor signed a letter stating they wouldn't promote competing political parties or non-Libertarian candidates. A representative of LROC telephoned us prior to the convention to see if they could get a booth. We told them they could not, but they sent us the paperwork and check anyway. It was returned.

At the convention LROC set up their

WHAT'S THIS? A MARIJUANA LEAF??
AN ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE??
SEIZE THIS VESSEL!!



WHAT'S THIS? A CIGARETTE??
AN ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE??
CHANGE THE WARNING LABEL!!



booth in the hotel lobby, a much more visible location than where the paid exhibitors were set up. When we asked them to shut down, they refused. After a day, the hotel staff removed their table. All this happened while LROC members repeatedly called convention organizers "assholes." During the rest of the convention, LROC members occasionally co-opted another exhibitor's booth, and repeatedly smoked marijuana in the exhibit room. (It would have made a great impression on any newcomers or press that might have happened by.)

On the convention floor LROC complained they were discriminated against, which was true. However, isn't that what libertarians are all about, the right of free association? And what about property rights?

My dealings with LROC have been frustrating and disappointing. If they are seeking to spread libertarianism to the Republicans, that's great, but first they should have a better understanding of the philosophy.

Pat Wright
Freedom '88 Organizer
Chair, San Diego Libertarian Party
San Diego, CA

"Reality is Rarely Simplistic"

I am not one to buy conspiracy theories and this renewed emphasis on factionalism seems to be another version of those outdated theories. Let me first preface my remarks with the statement that I am someone who greatly appreciates Murray Rothbard and many of his contributions to the libertarian movement. But his whole idea that the battle in Seattle was between *luftmenchen* and what I call the "clean and decents" is completely wrong. Greg Clark's letter was perceptive and accurate. As he noted many of the so-called "counter-culture" people were behind Ron Paul.

Dave Nolan's article, (April 1988, *AL*) which at times seemed to be a rebuttal to Rothbard, and then seemed to be a refinement of his arguments, was also incorrect. Nolan takes Rothbard's two categories (which I don't see as based on the reality of the situation) and divides them into five groups. Nolan even further confuses things with his categories since there is incredible overlap between the groups. I know many people who he would classify as "Techies" who are also "Counter-Culture."

Nolan also asserted that "Means had the support of virtually all the Counter-Culture types" and he said that gay men and lesbians fall into this category. But almost all the leading members of Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns endorsed Ron Paul.

Here in San Francisco about 2/3rds of the active members are gay and they almost unanimously supported Ron Paul. A few gay Libertarians supported other candidates but clearly most of them were active supporters of Ron Paul. I can think of nine people that I know who were delegates to the Seattle convention who are also gay. One of them endorsed Russell Means, two supported Marrou for President and six supported Ron Paul.

The attempt to analyze voting patterns within the LP as factions is appealing because it's simplistic. But reality is rarely simplistic. Most people vote according to their beliefs and have a tendency to float from one "faction" to another.

Continued page 5

American Libertarian

The *American Libertarian* is not affiliated with any political or non-profit organization. It is an independent monthly newsletter about the libertarian movement and related political, economic and social developments.

The *American Libertarian* is sent to subscribers by first class mail. We welcome letters, photos, short news stories and reviews from readers. Signed articles and reviews do not necessarily represent the views of the publication.

We take no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, which should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Display and classified advertising is accepted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising at its sole discretion.

Permission to reprint is granted unless marked "copyright". Credit and tear-sheets are requested for material reprinted.

ISSN 0897-2176

Publisher: M.T. Monroe

Editor: Mike Holmes

Art Director: Sue Bjornseth

Typesetting: Service Photo Copy

Printer: The Pasadena Citizen

Art/Caroons: Scott Bieser Graphics,
Rex F. May, John Trever

News/Photos/Letters/Ad Information/
Address Changes/Subscriptions:

The American Libertarian
21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450
713/492-6608

Alternate subscription address:

The American Libertarian
P.O. Box 63

Hadlock, WA 98339

Feedback

From page 4

Throughout the nomination campaign I remained in close contact with friends who were supporting Means or Marrou. Unfortunately the tendency to factionalize or to see factions make it too easy to pronounce opponents as morally evil. While I disagreed with my friends who supported Means, I never saw them or their candidate as evil. Most so-called factions in the Libertarian Party are really very small groups of just a few people. I find that these people tend to create cliques where their own importance becomes exaggerated. At times I have sided with each one of them on specific issues while never supporting any of them completely. But the vast majority of active Libertarians never associate with a specific "faction" nor do they interpret internal politics through "faction" colored glasses. Most of us see these small cliques as unproductive and unimportant.

While the issue of "factions" needs to be addressed it doesn't need to be addressed too often. I applaud *The American Libertarian* for looking into matters important to the libertarian movement. But I hope it doesn't spend much more time discussing something as unimportant as tiny cliques of people with over-blown egos. I just don't see the need, but then I am a member of the "non-factional" faction.

Jim Peron
San Francisco, CA

"More Than I Wanted to Know"

I enjoy the paper a lot and devour it when it arrives. I have a long-standing interest in the LP, LNC and the national office, including as a volunteer office worker. But in the May issue, I got more detail than I wanted to know. My suggestion: cut it in half. There is so much more going on in the American libertarian movement. Those toil-

ing in the vineyards need the encouragement of publicity, much more than the royalty in their imagined castles.

Stormy Mon
Denver, CO

Would Hitler Have Been a Democrat?

Honey Lanham contends that "LaRouche is a Democrat!" (April 1988, *AL*), instead of the leader of the National Democratic Policy Committee, a politico-intelligence cult that has infiltrated the Democratic Party (Feb. 1988 *AL*).

Lanham's reasoning is bizarre. Would she also declare that "Gus Hall is a Democrat!?" Like the LaRouchies, the Communist Party U.S.A. has ordered its cadres into the Democratic Party this year, where they are organizing on behalf of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign. That, however, does not make Hall a Democrat anymore than it does LaRouche. To the contrary, Hall is a life-long communist, and LaRouche a former leftist turned neo-Nazi.

To take Lanham's reasoning to its bizarre, logical conclusion, why not declare "David Duke is a Democrat!?" Although a white supremacist, Duke has been operating within the Democratic Party (although he recently agreed to run as the Populist Party candidate for president). But Duke is no more of a Democrat now than he was a decade ago, when he led a revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

Instead of spending valuable time blaming the Democratic Party for restrictive ballot access laws, Lanham and other libertarians should start to focus more attention on the sinister forces of the far-right, of which LaRouche and Duke are but two examples. Until that time, the Libertarian Party will remain what it is: a mostly white, middle-class party, perceived as hostile by minorities and those committed to democratic rights.

Greg Kaza
Trenton, MI ■

Political Notes

From page 3

election year effort yet, according to LP spokesman Willy Marshall. "We're running over 30 candidates this year," Marshall said in a recent interview, "mostly state house and senate races. Six will be active races and 1 or 2 will be full blown competitive efforts. We've also issued three new flyers, in bright yellow; one on taxes, one on Utah's repressive liquor laws, and one targeted at New Age people."

The party is not running any federal candidates and "maybe" will run a candidate for Governor.

Marshall also noted that Big Water, UT Libertarian mayor Alex Joseph is running for a four year term on the Kane County Commission. In 1986 he ran in the same race and received 20% in a three-way race. "He expects to do better this time," Marshall noted. The Big Water City Council has also adopted portions of the U.S. Constitution into their local charter, including a provision which they hope will allow them to assert jurisdiction over various tracts of Bureau of Land Management property which checkerboards the small southern Utah community. Big Water is governed by a Libertarian Party dominated city council.

In other campaign news, Marshall also reports that the 8-minute Ron Paul campaign video has been airing over a large Utah cable TV franchise which serves several southern Utah towns and communities.

Auburn, AL - There's a good chance the Alabama LP will have its first public of-

ficeholder, if local press reports can be believed. According to the *Columbus Ledger Enquirer* Auburn University graduate teaching assistant Mark Thornton of the Libertarian Party is a shoo-in to be elected as a Lee County constable.

For one thing, Lee County last elected a constable in 1972 and Thornton is running unopposed. While some Alabama counties have active constables who serve court papers, Thornton probably wouldn't do a thing. In fact, his goal is to draw attention to what he calls "just another government position. If it's not necessary, let's get rid of it." If elected, he says he'll work to abolish his "job".

Anchorage, AK - Former Alaskan 1986 LP gubernatorial candidate Mary O'Brannon, once hailed as the savior of the ALP, was briefly jailed in Anchorage in mid-March for apparent violations of a court order that forbid her from soliciting and accepting prepayment for ads in an alternative Yellow Pages-type directory. She had previously lost a civil case in which she was accused of taking payments without delivering the advertising. The court found her violating an agreement not to solicit unpublished advertising based on an October 1987 criminal contempt complaint by the local district attorney.

Although O'Brannon claims the charges amount to harassment and that she is innocent, she was nonetheless briefly jailed in March and required to post a \$5,000 bond for her release.

Her 1986 gubernatorial nomination was a major embarrassment to the Alaska LP organization, which originally took her at face value and believed she could afford to

finance a high profile race. However she disappeared for several months during the summer and the ALP eventually decided to oppose her nomination in the 1986 September primary. But she beat the party endorsed candidate by a narrow margin and later she endorsed the eventual winner (a Democrat) prior to the election. She was later charged with failing to deliver paid telephone directory advertising and was totally repudiated by the Alaska LP. She also attempted to run for mayor of Anchorage as an independent candidate last year. ■

News Flashes!



A compilation of breaking news of and about libertarians. More detailed accounts of most of these items will appear in upcoming issues of *American Libertarian*.

Steiger Sentenced, Mecham Acquitted — Embattled former Arizona Governor Evan Mecham was acquitted of charges of concealing a \$350,000 campaign loan, one of the charges which led to his recent impeachment from office. Former Mecham aide and LP Governor candidate Sam Steiger was sentenced to four years probation, 700 hours of community service and fined \$5,000 in his "theft by extortion" case.

Tryon Re-elected — Calaveras County Libertarian Party Supervisor Tom "Land-slide" Tryon was re-elected to a four-year term in the June California primary. Tryon, who was originally elected by a single vote margin in 1984, beat his opponent by a 10% margin in the non-partisan race. His opponent attacked Tryon's libertarian political affiliations and his stance on drugs.

Rohrabacher Nominated — Former libertarian wunderkind-turned-White House

speechwriter won an unexpected 34% plurality (and the nomination) in a packed 8-way race for the GOP congressional nomination from Orange County, CA. Rohrabacher beat several better known candidates and was boosted by a last minute appearance and endorsement by former White House aide Col. Oliver North. Rohrabacher, likely to win the fall election in the heavily Republican district, attracted support from several prominent libertarians but has come under heavy criticism for his rejection of most of his past libertarian views.

LROC Primary Results — Four-time LP candidate turned LROCer, Richard Caliguri, won the GOP nomination in the 14th Congressional district from the Pittsburgh, PA area. Three out of four LROC endorsed candidates from the San Francisco Bay area won nomination to state legislative office on the GOP ticket. The only loser, LROC organizer Eric Garris, narrowly lost his nomination battle by 800 votes in the heavily Democratic Oakland, CA congressional district now represented by ultra leftist black Democrat Ron Dellums.

LP Turmoil Continues — Former LP Vice Chair Sharon Ayres blasted embattled LP Chair Turney in a June 10 memo rebutting Turney's controversial column in a recent issue of the LP newspaper. Ayres concluded by calling on Turney to resign.

Turney issued his own verbal blast at opponents in his June chair report to the Libertarian National Committee, in which he accuses former LP employee Alan Lindsay of action that "amounted to extortion." Lindsay says he's considering legal action in the matter. In the meantime, Turney cut LP Director Paul Jacob's salary in May, claiming that a raise granted to Jacob for working on ballot access for the Paul campaign did not have his authorization. Jacob disputes this and has also reportedly consulted an attorney. ■

Join America's Finest



Subscribe to the American Libertarian

Sent to you by first class mail every month

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Special Charter Subscription Rates: ☐ 1 yr. \$20 ☐ 2 yrs. \$38 ☐ Back issues \$2
Outside N. America, add \$5 to all prices. Gift and library subscriptions welcomed.
American Libertarian, 21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450

Austin Cable Program in 10th Month

by Greg Clark

Greg Clark is a veteran libertarian activist who is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Texas.

Austin, TX - In May, libertarians in Austin, Texas celebrated ten months of production of their cable access television show, "Live and Let Live." Eighteen half-hour programs have now been taped. Other known efforts to bring the libertarian message to cable watchers in Los Angeles, Dallas, and Portland, Oregon have not produced more than six or seven shows each.

Producer Nancye Moses attributes the program's success to a group effort of local volunteers, although former LP National Director Honey Lanham places the credit with Moses. "Nancye deserves the credit for getting this project organized and moving," Lanham said. "After all, anyone who can get a bunch of libertarians to a TV studio early on Saturday mornings deserves credit," she laughingly related. The programs are taped on the fourth Saturday of each month from 8 AM to 1 PM.

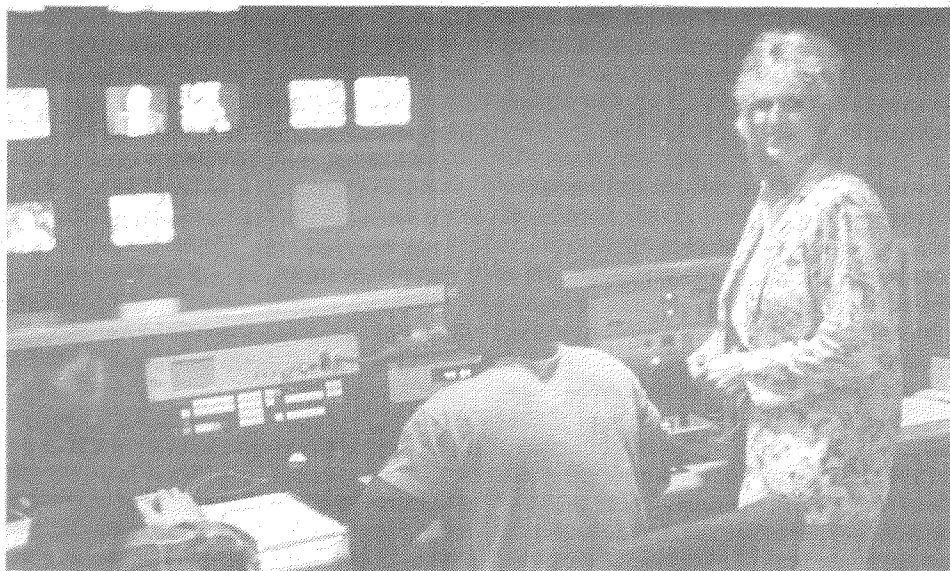
Aired each week at 10:30 on Tuesday evenings and again at 2:00 on Saturday afternoons, the program has presented a varying format. "I think that changing the format from time to time keeps the program more interesting," Nancye Moses said. "We've had interviews with a number of leading libertarians, discussions of local issues, and have even had panel discussions with socialists and conservatives to show the differences between our ideas and theirs."

Well known libertarians who have appeared on the program include LP founder David Nolan, LP National Director Paul Jacob, Montana libertarian activist Larry Dodge, and *American Libertarian* publisher Matt Monroe. Local Austin libertarians who have participated include Bruce Baechler, Rob Booth, Karen Ann Brown, Dave Burns, Greg Clark, Ken Crawford, Rick Draheim, David Eagle, Fred Ebner, Gary Johnson, Honey Lanham, Diane Lawrence, Cheryl Moore, Terry Parker, and Erich Schwarz.

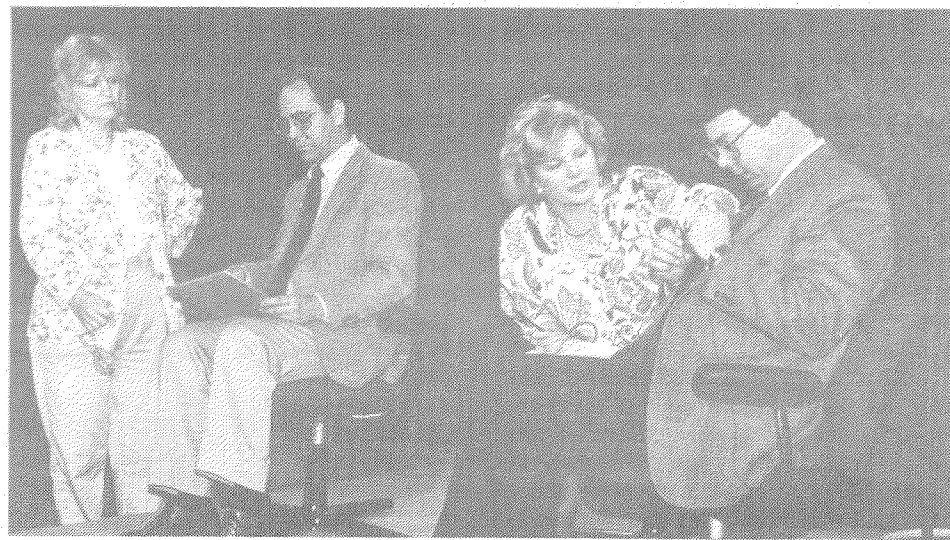
An Oklahoma native who lived in the Fayetteville, Arkansas area until 1985, Nancye Moses has a record of involvement with the libertarian movement dating back to 1963, when she attended Robert LeFevre's now legendary "Freedom School" in Colorado. She took classes in TV production offered by Austin CableVision in early 1987, on whose cable system the program is run. The first program was taped in July, 1987 and shown in August.

"Our first few shows were pretty amateurish, but we've been picking up expertise with every taping session," Moses said. "At first, everyone wanted to be in front of the cameras, but as time has gone by most of the volunteers have learned a lot about the technical end of things. The most important element in this project has been that we have had plenty of volunteers to help out."

"Most people consider this to be a 'fun' activity. I suppose we find TV fascinating because most of us have grown up with it. But plenty of backup is needed too; not everyone shows up as scheduled. In addition, non-libertarians, mostly students who volunteered for the sake of hands-on studio experience, were a big help at first," she states. "Too often libertarians won't use outside help, and that attitude is self-



Producer Nancye Moses at the control board.



(L. to R.) Moses with Greg Clark, Honey Lanham and Mike Holmes in preparation for show taping.

defeating."

"I'm not against political activity," says Moses, who is also an LP candidate for the Texas Legislature this year, "but I believe that libertarians must make effective use of the media for educational efforts which will pay off in the long run. I hope that other libertarian organizations will also be able to accomplish what we have been able to do here in Austin." ■

Advocates De-Fritzing

Fresno, CA - Marshall Fritz, president and founder of the Advocates for Self Government, a libertarian educational and outreach organization, announced his resignation as chairman of the Advocates board and his intention to step down as Advocates president by the end of the year. The Advocates, founded by Fritz in January 1985 and legally incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986, has been until recently largely a one-man operation with Fritz conducting "Introduction to Libertarianism" and other communications workshops and seminars, as well as producing materials for bringing new people into the libertarian movement.

San Antonio-based insurance executive Jim Robinson has assumed the Advocates board chairmanship, approved in a late April meeting, and the organization is conducting a search to find a replacement for Fritz by year end as Advocates president.

As for why Fritz is stepping down from leadership roles in the Advocates, an organization which he founded, the reasons given have been somewhat cryptic. In a letter to supporters dated April 30, Fritz cited two reasons for the change:

a) I'm a "project guy" and perform best

when I focus on one or two projects. As the Advocates has grown, I have tried to become an "executive guy". This has caused more stress than I like to feel. And while I have grown a lot, on balance I'm holding the Advocates back. I'm now 8 months behind on the bi-monthly (Advocates newsletter) *Liberator*.

b) The past four months have been a period of great spiritual growth and I feel a powerful but-as-yet-indistinct tugging to prepare myself to enter some form of lay Christian service.

In a press release issued at the same time, Fritz also said, "We need to get beyond the statement that 'Marshall Fritz equals the Advocates'. It's got to get bigger." In the same statement, Fritz announced the addition of three new Advocates staffers: Dave Dawson of Casper, WY and George Schwappach of Dublin, OH, who will direct special projects, with Schwappach additionally in charge of the Seminar 1 project (introductory program); and Steve Smith of Birmingham, AL who will become publications director and take over editorship of the *Liberator*.

In several telephone interviews with *AL* Fritz stressed that it was not money or morale problems which have led him to disengage from the organization he founded and led since inception. Instead, he characterized it as a "step in the growth of the Advocates, moving away from a one-person operation like, for example, Billy Graham Ministries, into a more broad-based organization like the Little League or the Rotary or Toastmasters."

Fritz also stressed that he would remain on the Advocates board of directors and remain active in selected projects, such as a series of videotaped workshops he has in production. He also referred to the change as a "step in his spiritual growth", but didn't elaborate. He has been one of the more outspoken proponents of bringing

libertarian ideas to Christians in his outreach efforts, somewhat unusual in a movement sometimes viewed as unsympathetic to religion.

Fritz has maintained a high profile in the libertarian community, with several appearances in California including a series of communications workshops at the California LP convention in San Diego in mid-February. Many who knew him were surprised at Fritz's 80 lb. drop in weight, which he attributed to a liquid protein diet and a desire to look better in his upcoming videotape series.

Word about the impending change in Advocates leadership has been circulating for the past few months, although few had more than idle speculation to explain the rumored Fritz departure. One who learned of the developments halfway joked that "Marshall was going to become the first libertarian TV evangelist." However, Fritz is a practicing Roman Catholic, a religion which would pose some unique problems for a lay television evangelist.

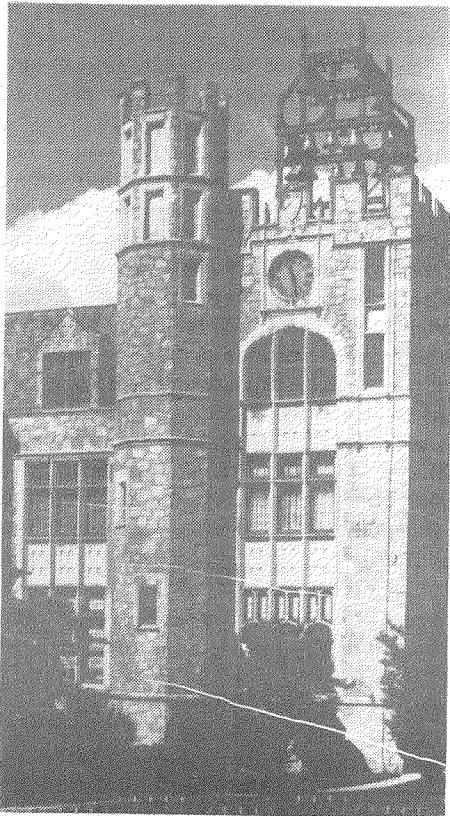
One participant at the Advocates recent Bass Lake, CA board meeting confirms that Fritz has been seriously influenced by his religious urgings, but said that Fritz specifically denied any interest in a television ministry. Advocates insiders at the meeting apparently learned little more about Fritz's motives than has been publicly released so far.

Another early rumored explanation for the departure of the creator of the Advocates was financial problems, a cause which Fritz has specifically denied. In an *AL* interview, Fritz maintained that recent Advocates fundraisers "were the most successful we have done to date" and that money was not a problem. Advocates sources also indicate that Fritz has vowed to devote more time in 1988 to fundraising and has promised the new staff and leadership that he doesn't intend to leave the Advocates with any financial problems. Fritz continues to maintain that in each year of the organization, gross revenues have doubled.

However, for a libertarian communicator who early on in his Advocates career said that he would "teach libertarians how to count", chiding the movement for its well known tendency to avoid quantitative measures for growth and success, as of late

Continued page 7

Stately Oglethorpe University is the site of the Advocates summer Summit '88 communications seminars.



Eleanor Culberson
Travel Consultant
(713) 558-9068

Affiliated with Travel Express
2825 Wilcrest, Suite 165, Houston, TX 77042
Telephone (713) 266-1400



LIBERTARIAN INTERNATIONAL

A United Nations
without
the Nations

Join in building a free world with libertarians
from close to 40 different countries
For details & sample newsletter, send \$1 to:
9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond VA 23229

AMERICAN SHOWCASE CO.

STORE FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT

9 W. BUTTLES AVE.
SUITE 116
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

BRETT BRINGARDNER
PETE NITSCHKE

(614) 464-1199

De-Fritzing

From page 6

May, Fritz had not released financial information for the Advocates about its financial performance for 1987. This is something of a departure since in prior years a detailed financial statement and tally of "new libertarians" produced by Advocates programs was published in the Advocates newsletter. According to *Liberator* editor Steve Smith, this information is not going to be included in the late May issue, the first published in 1988.

The top level personnel changes have not slowed down Advocates projects, according to press materials sent out by the Fresno, CA based organization.

Among other projects planned or underway by the group are:

—Summit '88, a marathon of workshops and other events to help people become better communicators of the freedom message. This is scheduled for July 11-16 at Oglethorpe University, a private college in Atlanta, GA. Workshop leaders include Fritz, 1984 LP presidential candidate David Bergland, and psychologist Phillip Mitchell. (Contact David Dawson for more information at 307-237-4648).

—Operation New Map, a project coinciding with the Democratic national convention also being held in Atlanta immediately following Summit '88. Advocates supporters will distribute 100,000 copies of the "World's Smallest Political Quiz", featuring the Nolan Chart and a short quiz which pinpoints the quiz taker's position on the map. These will be distributed to convention delegates, attendees and news media. Also planned is a large public banner featuring the chart and a special brochure with quotes from prominent Democrats with libertarian themes. This project will commence immediately following the Sum-

mit session July 15-17.

—The Advocates has also released a Liberty Communicator 8 or 16 part audio tape course and a 5 part set of "Self Government" video tapes, designed as professional quality introductions to libertarian and freedom oriented ideas.

—Seminar 1 courses, which is a five-week introductory series about libertarianism conducted by Advocates "franchisees" (although not legally or technically a franchised effort) who conduct the courses for a fee, with part of the proceeds reverting to the Advocates organization. Fritz says the early 1988 Seminar 1 series was conducted in 15 cities in North America and graduated 52 new libertarians (those who defined libertarianism in writing at the end of the

session and signed it in agreement).

In addition to the three new staffers, the Advocates organization also employs a secretary, accountant and student intern. Based out of Fritz's Fresno, CA home since inception, the Advocates operations are also being de-centralized with the announced staff changes.

Although he would not comment on it directly, Fritz suggested in an interview that the primary location of Advocates operations could likely change next year to somewhere else, as he phases himself out of the top leadership posts.

More information is available from **Advocates for Self Government, 5533 E. Swift, Fresno, CA 93727, (209) 292-1776.**

Council Candidates Arrested

Washington, DC - Libertarian Party DC City Council candidates Dennis Sobin, Prissy Williams-Godfrey and Tobie Witted and DC Libertarian Party Chair Scott Kohlhaas held a press conference May 25 at the Libertarian Party National Headquarters protesting police vandalism of their DC campaign headquarters, confiscation of campaign funds and literature, and the arrest of Ms. Williams-Godfrey and Mr. Witted on the charges of "running a disorderly house". The DC campaign headquarters (not to be confused with the national LP office also in Washington), which is located at 14th and K streets in the city's "red light" district, makes its conference rooms available to campaign contributors to use for "any voluntary activity between consenting adults."

The candidates' attorney, Nina Kraut, intends to challenge the arrests on the grounds that the District's turn-of-the-century "Disorderly House" laws interfere with First Amendment rights to freedom

of association and freedom of speech. DC LP Chair Scott Kohlhaas called the vandalism, confiscation and arrests "clear attempts to stifle Libertarian Party views on individual liberty."

Mr. Sobin, publisher of the uncensored monthly *Free Spirit*, Ms. Williams-Godfrey, President of the DC chapter of the sexual rights group COYOTE, and Mr. Witted, a former DC public school teacher, were all acting in the spirit of the national Libertarian Party platform, which calls for the "repeal of all laws regarding consensual sexual relations, including prostitution and solicitation" according to a press release issued by the DC LP.

The arrest appeared to be a repeat of an incident in 1985, where Ms. Williams-Godfrey and Mr. Sobin, then a candidate for DC mayor, were indicted on charges of running a disorderly house. Those charges were

dismissed by the U.S. attorney's office several months after the election.

According to court documents, \$185, including \$10 in marked bills, and "assorted condoms" were confiscated in the campaign office at the time of the arrest. The arrest occurred after a couple, believed to be police undercover officers, came to the campaign office and donated the \$10 in marked bills, after which they were lent private office space for about 15 minutes.

Kohlhaas, who was elected in April to the non-partisan Neighborhood Assembly, a body described as a "nearly powerless organ" whose duties are largely advisory, was on hand at the press conference to show support for the DC candidates who were busted. Kohlhaas also serves as the national LP's in-house telephone fundraising coordinator.

According to information available to *AL* at press time, charges against Williams-Godfrey and Whitted were pending. ■

CQE Effort Falls Short

Encinitas, CA - The Californians for Quality Education (CQE) initiative effort, which would grant a state income tax credit of up to 25% of the tax liability for parents with children in private schools or others offering private school scholarships, has come up short in their effort to gather 383,000 valid signatures to place the measure on the fall ballot in California.

According to Richard Arnold, organizer of the initiative effort, "we had a lot higher hopes when we started out, we were naive about how easy this constituency could be organized for the effort." Arnold, who owns a professional petitioning firm with wide experience in initiative signature gathering (and who is also doing petitioning for the LP in difficult states), admitted in an early May telephone interview that "we're not going to make the November ballot" with the CQE measure, since the deadline was May 23 to submit the necessary signatures. Arnold said that the goal was 500,000 gross signatures, and while they had collected "hundreds of thousands with more arriving daily," the CQE effort would fall well short of the needed signature total.

The measure gained wide attention last fall when former LP presidential candidate David Bergland sent out a nationwide fundraising letter promoting the project. Bergland also drafted the legal wording for the initiative, which would provide a partial tax credit from state income taxes for private school expenditures by parents or others paying for private school tuition. In fact, the initial fundraising appeal was sent out before the measure was completely drafted, and originally they had intended to submit it as a state constitutional amendment.

However, Arnold said that 620,000 valid signatures would have been required for the amendment, versus 383,000 for a new

Continued page 8

DECLASSIFIEDS

Ads in the De-Classified section are \$10 per insertion for up to 20 words, with remaining words at 30¢ each, payable in advance. All ads are subject to the approval of the American Libertarian. Send copy and payment to: De-Classifieds, The American Libertarian, 21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450.

PANARCHY — Choose your own government ultimate Libertarianism/Newsletter \$6.00 per year — Sample \$2.00 LeGrand E. Day, Editor, Panarchy Dialectic, Box 7663A, Van Nuys, CA 91409

FREE LANCE WRITER NEEDED. The American Libertarian will pay \$20-\$50 for commis-

sioned stories, interviews, etc. of libertarian events, people and institutions (200-800 words). Contact Mike Holmes, Editor, for more information (713) 492-6608 (10 am -6 pm CST).

WE PAY FOR PUBLISHED PHOTOS. The American Libertarian pays \$10 each for published news photos and will give credit. Black and white preferred, and we can return originals. Identify subject matter and dates and send to American Libertarian or contact Mike Holmes, Editor, (713) 492-6608 (10 am -6 pm CST).

THE AMERICAN LIBERTARIAN ACCEPTS DISPLAY ADVERTISING. Send for rate sheet or contact Mike Holmes, Editor, (713) 492-6608 (10 am -6 pm

CST). Reach our unique and interested audience.

BULK SHIPMENTS of back issues of American Libertarian available to campus and libertarian study groups for cost of shipping. Contact Mike Holmes, c/o American Libertarian for arrangements.

COMPLETE SET OF BACK ISSUES of American Libertarian (from 7/87). Special offer! Only \$25.00. Order: Back Issue Offer, American Libertarian, 21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450.

FREEDOM LOVERS! Our death greatly exaggerated. RECLAIM YOUR HERITAGE. Join YAF. Contact: Liberty Caucus, Box 2598, MPO, Niagara Falls, NY 14302.

CQE Effort

From page 7

statute, which was the final initiative format. California state law only allows five months to gather signatures, and while the current drive has until June 23, even if successful the CQE initiative would have to wait for an election date in 1989. Arnold concedes that "we should have started a full month earlier" due to the early deadlines.

The CQE effort has largely been a volunteer drive, as fundrasing has come mostly from libertarian sources. Arnold would only say that "more than \$20,000 has been raised, \$14,000 from our original Bergland mailing." He noted, "the majority of the money has come from libertarians, but the majority of signatures have come from private school associations and parents." He said that while they were sympathetic, the libertarian tie-in scared off some Christian school supporters who were reluctant to help due to fears about church-state issues raised over the political initiative.

Arnold said that while they were successful in working with private schools and parent groups, "the turnaround for signatures was more like 6-8 weeks per school rather than the two weeks or so we expected." Most of the signatures were collected from parents of students already enrolled in private schools. At an estimated cost of 50¢ per commercially obtained signature, "there was no way the effort could have done without the mostly volunteer effort," Arnold explained.

"But we learned a lot," Arnold said, "and we have some private support financially to continue funding the project for 1989 or 1990. We're going to take what we've learned and put the measure on the ballot in the next year or two."

Although most libertarians supported the CQE effort in principle, some questioned the wisdom of launching a huge petition effort for one issue in California requiring hundreds of thousands of signatures during a presidential election year which requires the collection of over a million signatures by the Libertarian Party for the Paul-Marrou ticket.

There is also the matter of actually passing the initiative once it gets on the ballot. Some LP members remember the disastrous 1982 tuition tax credit measure which was

pushed by members of the so-called "Crane Machine" in Washington DC. Although the initiative was placed on the ballot at considerable cost, and was similar in principle to the CQE idea, it was overwhelmingly rejected at the polls once the politically powerful teacher's lobby and other government union groups came out strongly against it.

While many libertarians and non-libertarians alike are concluding that alternatives should be encouraged to the current public school system, frontal assaults on the sacred cow of government-run schools will undoubtedly prove difficult and expensive. And as organizers of the CQE have learned, even good ideas are difficult to get on the ballot, even when you have a large special interest group helping out.

However, CQE backers are vowing to fight on. For additional information about the CQE initiative, contact: **Californians for Quality Education, 1020 Second Street, Suite B, Encinitas, CA 92024. (619) 753-9192.** ■

Ballot Access Update

Houston, TX - Things are coming down to the wire for Libertarian Party ballot access efforts in mid-summer. According to current reports:

- The Ballot Access Committee has nearly 60 petitioners in the field along with a number of petitioning firm workers, hitting the half dozen most difficult states. According to several sources, North Carolina is hopeless and Indiana, which unexpectedly changed its deadline to mid-July from August 1 (which caught a number of ballot access experts unaware), is looking very chancy. Also doubtful is relatively easy West Virginia, which only needs 7,000 signatures and had a Fall 1987 starting date.

One complication for West Virginia is that it is home to former BAC chair Steve Fielder, who talked about filing a lawsuit but never acted, and who never showed an inclination to mount a homegrown volunteer petition effort.

Some observers are now privately complaining that the Paul campaign won't bail out West Virginia because it is home to Fielder and Karl Hess, who is also viewed with suspicion by some in the Paul camp. West Virginia was not on the ballot in 1984.

Otherwise, chances are still decent for the remaining 47 states plus DC.

- Former LP chair Paul Grant was finally vindicated in his US Supreme Court case (*Meyer v. Grant*) on June 6 which unanimously decided that the State of Colorado may not ban the practice of paying petitioners.

Ballot access experts viewed the outcome with relief, since the high court based the protection of petitioning practices on strong First Amendment freedom of speech grounds. Observers are hopeful that this decision will spur the way to remove other legal obstacles to successful petitioning efforts.

- The New Alliance Party (NAP) is running neck and neck with the LP in the 1988 ballot access sweepstakes, although they've benefited from hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal matching funds. They still have several large signature states to complete, including Oregon, where they hope to qualify on a never-before-used "group meeting" provision if they can get 2,000 people to a post-gay rights march rally in Portland. In California they've hired Rick Arnold & Associates to collect 128,000 signatures.



Alida Valli, Fosco Giachetti and Rossano Brazzi at a party in *WE THE LIVING*.

Rediscovered "We The Living" Scheduled for Release

Discovered by Henry Mark and Erika Holzer 30 years after it was made without Ayn Rand's knowledge, the 1942 classic film *We The Living* has now been re-edited and subtitled in English (under Rand's supervision) and shown at several film festivals to critical acclaim. Directed by Goffredo Alessandrini and set in post-revolution Russia, the film was released in Italy during WW II but was banned by the Fascists when they realized the anti-authoritarian message might also apply to their own government. Alida Valli (Kira in the movie) is the only star of the film living today.

With the assistance of co-producer Duncan Scott and the Holzers, Angelika Films (1974 Broadway, NY, NY 10023) plans to release the film for general distribution later this year. Press screenings in New York are being held in late June and early July. ■

Italian star Alida Valli, as Kira



Ayn Rand circa 1947



Leonard McCombe, Life Magazine © 1947, 1967 Time Inc.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

AL Interviews: Kerry Welsh, John Trever, Robert Poole Jr.

Mickelson in the Morning

Rohrabacher Report

Koch Cuts Off CSMP

Arizona's Strange Politics, Stranger Justice

Western YAF Convention Report

LP Turmoil Continues

Why Ron Paul Should Accept Federal Matching Funds

LI Swaziland Report

Steiger on the Air

LP Candidate Roundup

Rothbard on the Boom, Bust and Boom in Austrian Economics

Book Reviews: "Freedom Under Siege", "Capitalism for Kids", "Cry Freedom" and "Biko"

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

New Alliance candidate Lenora Fulani came in first with 35.4% in the Peace and Freedom Party June primary, which would be a much cheaper means of gaining a ballot spot, but those results aren't binding. The P&F nominating convention is held in mid-August and observers speculate that NAP will have a difficult time winning the nomination in convention, since a half dozen other leftwing groups are also vying for the spot.

- Former Democratic Senator "Clean Gene" McCarthy of Vietnam War era fame grabbed a few seconds of national TV airtime in his quixotic announcement of his "Consumer Party" presidential nomination in late May. The Consumer Party exists in Pennsylvania and has contacts in a few other places, and may pick up some easy

ballot access states.

Few are giving McCarthy's presidential bid much of a chance for publicity or anything else, and some critics have termed it a political dinosaur's ego trip...

- The *Chicago Sun Times* had a strong pro-ballot access editorial on June 5 entitled "Fight Rigged Election Laws", which focused on the LP of Illinois ballot access battle and took note of that state party's efforts in helping other LP states with difficult ballot laws. Noting the candidacy of Ron Paul and Andre Marrou, the editorial concluded by saying, "The neglect (of organizations devoted to voting rights) fosters the growing domination of the electoral process by the marriage-of-convenience alliance of the two major parties." ■