

# Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

March/April 1997

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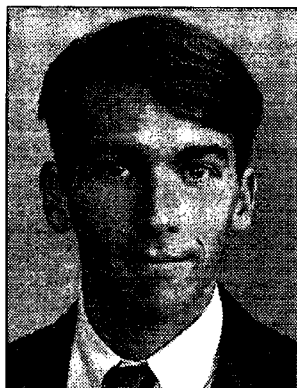
## Eggers Mulls California Assembly Bid

Book-lined think tank library or the gladiatorial arena of real politics? This is the choice Reason Public Policy Institute Director of Public Privatization and Government Reform William Eggers is mulling over, according to a recent phone interview with *Republican Liberty*.

Eggers, 30, has been sounding out sources in libertarian, conservative and free market think tanks and political groups in contemplation of running for the 53rd Assembly District seat, which encompasses the southern California area of Manhattan Beach-Long Beach.

This is the first step in what might become a long journey, especially if he announces his Republican primary bid early next year for what will be an open seat, with the incumbent term-limited out. Eggers is familiar with California politics, having graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of California at San Diego, as well as heading up the Reason privatization effort for the past several years.

In addition to coauthoring *Revolution at the Roots: Making Our Government Smaller, Better and Closer to Home*, Eggers has been busy publishing a number of policy oriented articles for major



William Eggers

newspapers and magazines and making the rounds of TV and radio appearances.

The Reason Foundation is considered by many to be the premier national think tank on privatization studies. Eggers began his career as a Research Fellow at the Reason Foundation and later served a stint as a policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation, specializing in the transformation of former communist nations into market economies.

An Assembly race in California is expected to cost in the neighborhood of a quarter million dollars for a successful candidate, so Eggers is carefully evaluating his support and the situation in the district. The 53rd district is split 42-41 percent Democrat-Republican and tends to be socially tol-

erant, fiscally conservative and environmentally sensitive.

If Eggers decides to toss his hat into the ring, he will bring a sophisticated knowledge of smaller government alternatives perhaps unmatched anywhere in the country by a Republican candidate. The RLC has tentatively expressed interest in supporting his bid, and those interested in visiting with him further about it can reach him at: [wdeggers@reason.org](mailto:wdeggers@reason.org).

## Through a Glass Darkly: The RLC Looks to 2000

*Presidential politics are the farthest removed for libertarian Republicans, since the top rung of the ladder is usually reserved for the consensus choice of the party. Nevertheless, as the party begins to recognize the fact that the libertarian formula of social tolerance, constitutional liberty and economic freedom is a politically potent one, we might hope for better luck in the 2000 presidential race. Some thoughts on potential candidates below:*

by Mike Holmes

**STEVE FORBES**- Far and away the most prominent libertarian-oriented choice. Garnered nearly a third of all GOP primary votes in 1996 with his last-minute candidacy. That says a lot about the political appeal the small government, libertarian message. He seems to be clearly running for president now with his own group Americans for Hope, Growth and Opportunity fronting for him.

However, his one note song about the flat tax proposal may be getting old and stands to be co-opted by congressional Republicans. Then what, Steve? Also, he has refrained from coming out of the libertarian closet or openly endorsing the RLC. Forbes needs to amp up courageous and bold positions, not veer off into an imaginary middle ground of moderate politics and poll-tested cliches. Has

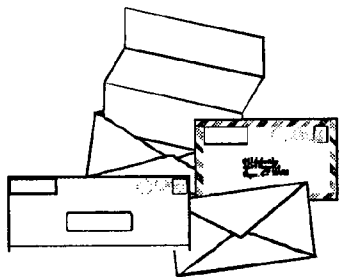
never held public office and his disorganized primary campaign reflected amateurish, insular teamwork. Steve, you need ground troops; even in Desert Storm high altitude bombing wasn't enough. He's still on the top of RLC charts, but could fade fast if other political racehorses overcome this wonkish mule.

**SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**- Clearly wants to put hat in the ring as his undeserved taint from the Keating S&L scandal fades. Is from arguably the most libertarian Republican state in the union, Arizona, and generally is above average on most issues. But he is now touting a "nontraditional conservative" agenda, whatever that is. If it turns out to be at all libertarian, he could garner a lot of RLC

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## Feedback

### RLC Should Support Instant Runoffs

**Editor:**

As I was doing some early Spring cleaning, I happened across a book review by Thomas D. Walls in the January/February 1996 edition of *Republican Liberty*.

Walls rightly observes that "[t]here are numerous institutional hindrances to the success of a third party. The U.S. electoral apparatus is geared to a two-party system." But why should RLCers continue to support an electoral system that breaks down when more than two candidates enter a race for a single seat?

Implementing the so-called "instant runoff" elections would solve the dilemma many voters face in having to choose between the lesser of two evils. Voters could rank candidates in order of preference rather than vote for just one person. This system almost always reveals a true majority winner, as opposed to a plurality winner.

**J. Robert Latham**

*Editor's Note: Hmm, perhaps. But remember the six Congressmen, two Senators, president and vice president elected last year with less than 50 percent of the vote were all Democrats.*

### We Are the GOP, Right?

**Editor:**

Correct me if I'm wrong, but is not the Republican Liberty Caucus a political organization? Isn't the whole reason for its existence to promote libertarianism within the Republican party? If that is its purpose, I fail to see how it can have any credibility if slightly more than half its members (as reported in the membership survey in the November/December issue) intended to vote for Libertarian Harry Browne for president.

It doesn't matter if Harry Browne was the best candidate. What matters is that he ran as a Libertarian. If he wanted the votes of the RLC, he should have ran in the Republican primary.

I cannot find the position these Browne voters took to be principled or pragmatic.

**Robert T. Peterson  
Munster, IN**

*Editor's note: The RLC was very active in the 1996 Republican primary, where it endorsed Steve Forbes. In the general election, the*

*RLC reluctantly endorsed Bob Dole. That Dole lost by a wide margin - and that many libertarian Republican voters gave their vote to Browne - indicates to us the futility of nominating Dole-like candidates. We hope you will join us in the trenches next primary season to see it doesn't happen again.*

### Republicans for What?

**Editor:**

I wanted to make a note about the Republicans for Environmental Protection which was briefly mentioned in the November/December newsletter. I am leery about a libertarian organization aligning itself with environmentalism, at least as defined by the left-wing extremists.

**Bill Tucker  
Ferguson, MO**

*Editor's note: Whoa, Nellie. The group was mentioned because a Florida RLCer is active with the organization. While the organization claims it stands for market solutions to environmental problems - a position we embrace - the RLC is not aligned with it.*

### Be Wary of National Sales Tax

**Editor:**

U.S Rep. Bill Archer is leading the charge for a national sales tax to replace the national income tax. While I applaud his efforts, he has been heard to say that he does not believe we can repeal the 16th amendment until after the tax is approved.

If Congress were to install a national sales tax without simultaneously abolishing the federal income tax, the RLC should be leading the charge for another Tea Party!

**Mary Maas  
RLC National Committee Member  
Coupeville, WA**

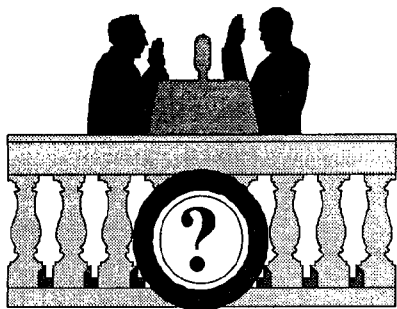
### *Republican Liberty*

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## Presidential Prospects 2000

### THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY

...from page 1

support fast. But this may mean he's getting sucked into the "reformist" (e.g. Democrat) quagmire on campaign finance, environment and other issues. Watch out.

**JACK KEMP**- Former veep candidate is everyone's "would be libertarian" Republican. Too bad he's not. Instead, he and buddy Bill "Darth" Bennett quarrel over how to scientifically apply statism to produce moral, productive citizens out of welfare bums and gangsta rap fans. Ain't gonna happen. While a considerable improvement over his running mate in 1996, Kemp failed to shine during his big moment. Little libertarian sentiment here, aside from a refreshing lack of typical Republican social intolerance. Verdict: convince us, Jack.

**SEN. PHIL GRAMM**- Nearly every libertarian Republican's initial choice last time, but he tried to sell his soul to the hard right in the fall of 1995 and found no buyers. His economic conservative base, feeling jilted, signed up with Steve Forbes in droves as a result. Proves that every politician's best friend big money can't overcome mixed messages and blatant pandering. When Phil first entered politics in Texas in 1974, he asked for, but didn't get, the Texas Libertarian Party endorsement. Came close though. If he remembers his roots, takes a risk and comes our direction, he could be resurrected. Otherwise, just another Senator with a bad accent...

**LAMAR ALEXANDER**- Kind of like the Bill Clinton of the GOP, everyone sees in him what they want to see. And he can make you believe it. He probably doesn't know what a libertarian is. Forget this guy, unless he does some serious reading. Try calling Laissez Faire Books and lose the plaid, Lamar.

**SEN. CONNIE MACK** - This capable Florida Senator has libertarian inclinations and is from a bellwether political state. Probably could carry the banner of principled small government as well as anyone. Was a favorite of the late Roger MacBride, founding RLC chairman. Tough for Senators to get elected President, though, hasn't been done since Kennedy. Still, an early, if sentimental, favorite prospect. Being the son and namesake of a baseball legend can't hurt either...

**SEN. FRED THOMPSON**- Tennessee's own *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Only he's been there before, as a Watergate prosecutor, so he's sound on the Nixon issue. Has also been to

Hollywood, so he has some clue as to what the average American really wants culturally from his government, namely, get the hell out of the way (are you listening Pat?). A smart, tough but very personable candidate, currently set to rip a piece of Clinton's hide over recent fund-raising scandals. Is libertarian by exclusion; he's not a squish and not a neanderthal. Well, that's pretty darn good. If he gets ambitious, he could be a comer.

**GOV. PETE WILSON**- There was a time long ago when the California governor was touted by some as a libertarian Republican. Not any more. Main virtue is that he's the highest ranking Republican to be elected in a long time from the state with the most electoral votes. Smart, more of an opportunist than anything else. Could move libertarian should he search his soul (or polls) for some real principled positions. A lot of backtracking to do, however. Do we need this aggravation?

**DAN QUAYLE**- Okay, enough giggling. Rumor once had it he named his two kids after some early libertarian heros. That's the good news. Also, he seems to be running. Not really as bad as the media made him out to be, but where does that leave us? Dan, if you really know who Lysander Spooner was, give us a call...

**PAT BUCHANAN**- Pat, we hardly knew ya. From his sometimes quasi libertarian politics in 1992 and radio talk show, he moved into the firm orbit of working class socialist populism for the 1996 presidential political primary season. Even the paleo-libertarians gave up on him. While smart, informed and has been sympathetic to libertarian ideas in the past, his protectionist, class-envy politics is leading him to be the next Pat Choate (remember him? Cluc: ran in '96 with a guy who has big ears...)

**GOV. BILL WELD**- One of the few GOP leaders to actually label himself a libertarian. Of course, in Massachusetts, they consider Trotskyites conservatives... Bill might even be a libertarian if he wasn't so darn, well, patrician. You know, more money than God, and with that New England sense of "taking care of you." Aside from that, actually a decent governor in America's most statist commonwealth (Minnesota isn't a commonwealth, so there...). Losing the Senate race took some luster off, and he wouldn't be popular with

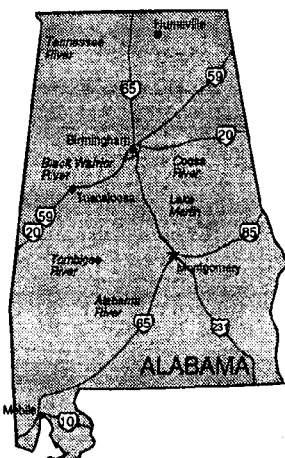
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## RLC Notes

# Republican Governor Appoints Thornton to State Banking Position

The Republican governor of **Alabama**, Fob James, appointed the former Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Alabama to a high-ranking position in that state's banking department.

Mark Thornton, a professor of economics at Auburn University and a former member of the RLC's Advisory Board, was appointed as Assistant Supervisor of Banking in the State Banking Department in mid-February. He stepped down as LP chairman to take the new job.



The appointment followed Thornton's campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1996 — a campaign which he said seemed to leave the "media and the voters favorably impressed" by his ideas and credibility. Running as a Libertarian, however, he received only 1.8 percent of the vote.

"I think that the visibility of my campaign for U.S. Senate did have something to do with the appointment," said Thornton. "It was a positive campaign that stressed issues and solutions. We [libertarians] have radical solu-

tions, but I think the fact that I stressed their general interest appeal, their practicality and success, and their general consistency with the Constitution is a very positive approach."

As assistant supervisor of banking, Thornton will help oversee the deregulation of the state's banking industry.

"Banking is going through a deregulatory and integration phase," he said. "Like most deregulations it brings the promise of enhanced competition and greater consumer satisfaction, but it also brings some of the problems and pitfalls that we have seen in other partial deregulations."

Thornton said he's going into his new job with an awareness of the difficulty of the task ahead of him as a libertarian trying to reform a state-controlled industry.

"Government, especially state government, is a lot more tricky than most libertarians would care to admit," he said. "Many state programs are largely controlled by the federal government. Then you have the interest groups, the lobbyists, the state legislature and the state employees. I do, however, feel that my economic analysis can have an effect and I am optimistic about achieving some good for the people of Alabama."

And Thornton said he is also aware of the temptations that come with a government job — even for a principled libertarian.

"The natural question that pops into every libertarian's head when they see someone go off to work for the government is: Is Thornton going to be a sellout? Maybe you can check back in a couple of years to see how things turned out," he said.

The Voters Information Service on the World Wide Web keeps tracks of congressional ratings from numerous groups, from the NAACP to the International Association of Firefighters. In March, they added the Republican Liberty Caucus to the list.

Their website is located at <http://www.vis.org/>.

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RLC Chairman Clifford Thies and Executive Director Mike Griffin met with Steve Forbes in New York City in January sharing with him the recent successes and growth of the RLC. The hour-long conversation covered the libertarian movement, what RLC is about and what Forbes is trying to achieve with his new organization. Forbes was particularly interested in the RLC's Liberty Index. Thies and Griffin requested that Forbes support RLC by signing prospecting or fund-raising letters and making a financial contribution. Forbes is currently reviewing the proposal.

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In February many **California** RLCers attended the state GOP convention in Sacramento. Matt McDonald and Laura Crockett-Gordon passed out lots of literature, brochures and newsletters. A meeting was held on Saturday during the convention, with approximately 10 of our members in attendance. Crockett-Gordon was elected chair of the statewide organization, while McDonald was elected Southern California Coordinator and Douglas Lorenz was elected into the Northern California Coordinator position. Secretary is Nick Mikulich. Shawn Steel has agreed to serve as one of our advisors.

Future events include front row and center at the College Republicans State Convention the week end of April 11-13. Any of you wanting more information, please call Doug Lorenz at (510) 634-0859. The convention will be held in Walnut Creek at the Marriott.

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## Notable Quote

"[The] question is whether or not it's the government's role to mold behavior any more than it is the government's role to mold, regulate, tax and impede the voluntarism of economic contractual arrangements.

"No one advocates prior restraint to regulate journalistic expression even though great harm has come over the centuries from the promotion of authoritarian ideas. Likewise we do not advocate the regulation of political expression and religious beliefs however bizarre they may seem. And yet we casually assume it's the role of government to regulate personal behavior to make one act more responsibly."

• Rep. Ron Paul from the *Congressional Record*

## Media Notes

*Wall Street Journal:*

# "The Libertarian Congressman is Back"

Thus read the *WSJ* editorial page headline on Monday, Jan. 13, less than a week after Ron Paul was sworn in as a U.S. Congressman once again.

In a glowing review of Paul's career, John Fund said that Paul was beginning "the third act of an unusual political career during which he has won national office five times without deviating from his libertarian principles."

Some excerpts:

"...His refusal to compromise was legendary during his first stint in Congress. Dr. Paul voted against federal programs in his own front yard, including NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center and the Houston Medical Center. Business interests were horrified, and in 1980 gave so much money to his Democratic challenger that he outspent the incumbent Dr. Paul by two to one. Dr. Paul still won."

"...But Dr. Paul is no class warrior: 'I want more rich people. I'm against the politically powerful using regulations and taxpayer money to prosper at the expense of others.'"

"...If any GOP member had a reason to vote against Speaker Newt Gingrich, it might be Dr. Paul: The Speaker came to his district to campaign for [Paul's opponent]. But Dr. Paul gladly voted for Mr. Gingrich. 'No one talks about the real ethics disaster in Washington,' he says. 'It's that many members of Congress will listen to any argument against a bill except two: that it's not moral or that it's not constitutional.'"

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The *WSJ* - on the very same day - also reviewed two books about and by libertarians, *What It Means to Be a Libertarian* by Charles Murray and *Libertarianism* by David Boaz. While skeptical, reviewer Michael Barone wrote a generally positive review of both books, noting that both laid the groundwork for understanding the subject in very different ways.

Murray uses friendly, thoughtful and even elegant prose, making the "big picture" case for freedom. Free choice is not only good because it leaves us free to do what we want, he says, but even more so because it imposes responsibility on family and community, and "responsibility is what keeps our lives from being trivial." Boaz's much longer book spends more time reviewing history and economic data. The Boaz book also has a companion volume, the *Libertarian Reader*, which is an anthology of libertarian writings from throughout history.

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Kenneth Guenther, executive vice president of the Independent Bankers Association of America, blamed pressure from "libertarian Republicans" for Rep. Jim Leach's decision to accept mergers between banks and nonfinancial companies.

The story was covered in the March 17 issue of *American Banker*. The article said Guenther and Rossville (GA) Bank presi-

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dent Charles R. Lusk met with Newt Gingrich in early March and urged the House speaker to block legislation that allows banks and commercial firms to affiliate.

"Hopefully the Congress will realize the profound downside risk of the radical financial restructuring being proposed by Republican libertarians and Wall Street apologists," Mr. Guenther said in a statement quoted in the article.

Who are these evil libertarians? Rep. Richard Baker (R-LA) and Rep. John Linder (R-GA).

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On the *McLaughlin Group* recently, John McLaughlin announced to Fred Barnes that it looks like the GOP is going to be facing a battle of two ideologies for control over the party: the religious conservatives and the libertarians.

*McLaughlin:* Who will win? *Fred Barnes:* the libertarians.

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Yes, that was a *Reason* magazine T-shirt you saw Drew Carey flash on *The Drew Carey Show* Jan. 15. He's a subscriber and bought it at *Reason's* "Evening with the Editors" gala in 1996.

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Dirty Harry made the RLC's day when he announced - in the March issue of *Playboy* - that he is a libertarian.

The Oscar-winning actor and director candidly affiliated himself with the growing libertarian movement when he was asked: "How would you characterize yourself politically?" The laconic Eastwood answered, "libertarian" — and then went on to explain the philosophy in simple terms: "Everyone leaves everyone else alone."

The 66-year-old Eastwood has been an increasingly outspoken critic of government abuses. In an essay he wrote for the January 12, 1997 issue of *Parade* magazine, Eastwood noted: "Abuse of power isn't limited to bad guys in other nations. It happens in our own country if we're not vigilant."

For example, he wrote: "At Waco, was there really an urgency to get those people out of the compound at that particular time? Was the press going to make it look heroic for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms? At Ruby Ridge, there was one guy in a cabin at the top of the mountain. Was it necessary for federal agents to go up there and shoot a 14-year-old in the back and shoot a woman with a child in her arms? What kind of mentality does that?"

The former Republican mayor of Carmel, Calif., criticized both major parties for their reliance on government solutions to social problems.

## RLC Notes...from page 4

To receive a copy of the latest issue of the California RLC newsletter, notify Laura Crockett-Gordon at (818) 772-9943 or email Sumlaura@aol.com.

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Grant Maloy, a county commissioner in Oviedo near Orlando, **Florida**, is forming a local chapter of the RLC. Maloy is a small businessman with a foliage nursery. He unseated the incumbent Republican with a platform of term limits for county commissioners, no new taxes without voter approval (changing the county charter to include those two) and ending local government subsidies to business.

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Steve Ertelt appeared before the state Senate Finance Committee to testify on behalf of the **Indiana** Republican Liberty Caucus regarding a bill by State Sen. David Ford that would abolish the Indiana Inheritance Tax, otherwise known as the estate tax. Ertelt explained that the estate tax reduces economic growth, hurting the jobs and incomes of the very people that wealth redistribution was intended to aid; increases the cost of capital, slowing down research and development and the use of machines that would increase worker productivity — and thus wages; keeps interest rates on home loans and other major purchases higher than they should be; and raises very little money — in fact, it may cost the government and the taxpayers more in administrative and

compliance fees than it raises in revenue.

Ertelt reports the focus of the Indiana RLC this year will be on campaign finance reform, holding the Democrats to their promise to cut the state property taxes, finding members of the state legislature to become involved with the IN RLC, pushing our Republican congressmen in a more libertarian direction and making inroads into the state party.

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In **Massachusetts**, Alan Cousins held an organizational meeting in January, adopting the group's charter and filling all the offices except parliamentarian. One of the MA RLC new members is Anthony Conte, a former executive director of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee. Another, Reid Morrison, is a former fundraising director of the State Committee. Reid was elected vice chairman of the chapter; Cousin was elected chairman.

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Northwest **Michigan** Libertarian Party activist John Willis was elected Boon Township treasurer as a Republican during the November elections. Willis missed the LP caucus deadline back in April and decided to run on the Republican ticket.

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Charles Muth, former director of the **Nevada** Republican Party Executive Committee and current publisher of the Nevada State

(Continued on page 7)



## Media Notes

### Quincy Man Launches GOP Libertarian Wing

*By Lauren Markoe, reprinted from the Patriot Ledger*

In Democrat-dominated Massachusetts, it can be lonely being a Republican. But even when surrounded by Republicans, Quincy's Alan Cousins didn't always feel comfortable. So this past weekend, Cousins formed a group of 11 like-minded party members: the first Massachusetts chapter of the Republican Liberty Caucus.

They call themselves libertarian Republicans.

But Cousins, a 37-year-old assistant business manager at the Italian Home for Children in Jamaica Plain, said he's just as much a Republican as he ever was.

"This is very much to aid the Republican Party. This is unequivocally a Republican organization," he said.

The Republican Liberty Caucus, a Florida-based [sic] national group founded in 1990, has chapters in 10 states and members in 20. It is affiliated with the national Republican Party but has strong libertarian leanings. On economic and social

issues, these Republicans favor a minimum of government interference in citizens' lives.

The Republican Party's ties to the conservative social agenda of the religious right bothers libertarian Republicans.

"One thing that distinguishes many of us from mainstream Republicanism is abortion," Cousins said. Many, though not all Republican libertarians, object to the party's anti-abortion stance, he said.

So why wouldn't Republicans like Cousins join the Libertarian Party? "I've always been a Republican. My family's Republican. The Republican Party offers more promise. It's bigger. It has more clout," he says.

Cousins discovered the Republican libertarians in September on the Internet. "I put in the key words 'libertarian' and 'Republican,'" he said.

Working within the party, raising money for Republicans with libertarian views, and supporting legislation that reflects a libertarian ideology, caucus members can be most effective, Cousins said.

Cousins said his group will focus this year on the efforts of Republican Gov. William Weld to reduce the tax on investment income from 12 percent to 5.95 percent.



## 2000...from page 3

many GOP conservatives, but might expand the traditional Republican voter base

**COLIN POWELL-** The retired general rates highly in polls despite the fact that he barely acknowledges being a Republican. So much for the "party workhorse" theory. Like the last general nominated, Eisenhower, Powell is viewed as a national unity figure rather than a partisan politician. Therefore, a shoo-in, the wishful thinking goes. And as a possible first black president, a pathbreaking candidate as well. But Desert Storm wasn't WWII and Powell is no Ike. His few known political views seem to be from the widely discredited moderate camp. Unfortunately, there is no evidence he has any profound reservations about big government. And until he sheds some positive light on the subject, there is little reason to consider him anything other than a '90s version of Alexander "Here, now, I am in charge" Haig.

**GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH-** Being a state governor has been the most recent successful path to the Oval Office. On the libertarian scale, George W. falls far short of his Florida brother Jeb, but possibly somewhat ahead of his papa. He beat a popular incumbent and is making the GOP the dominant party in the Texas, the nation's second largest and second most populous state. He may be the party establishment choice for 2000. On the plus side, he did finally endorse Ron Paul for Congress in '96. However, his first major political effort involves complicated tax "reform" in Texas which ends up raising taxes. Must be something in the genes.

**ELIZABETH DOLE-** Liddy Dole is also showing up in potential candidate polls. Aside from being Mrs. Bob Dole, president of the Red Cross and a woman, no one would think twice. She'd be a better candidate than her husband was, but who wouldn't?

**REP. RON PAUL-** Well, we can't leave him off the list. Besides, he's already run for President (as a "big L" Libertarian) so he's more experienced than the rest. Although he will only be in his second recent House term in 2000, he has a formidable organization (in addition to RLC support) and is popular with most conservatives. A true libertarian Republican, he would really be a refreshing change. And the attacks on him by both the GOP and the Dems could hardly be much worse in 2000 than in 1996. However, there is little sign he is planning a race for president. Might have a better shot at the veep slot (Forbes-Paul?) since House members haven't been able to successfully climb the presidential ladder in this century directly. Oh well, we can always dream...

## RLC Notes...from page 6

GOP newsletter *Trunk & Tusk* is planning on starting an RLC chapter in Nevada, promoting a more principles-oriented Republican Party. Featured in *Trunk & Tusk* recently was Don Gustavson, the newly elected state senator, whom Muth confirmed is also libertarian Republican.

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RLC'er Trent James has accepted a position at the state capital in Santa Fe, **New Mexico**, as a legislative analyst for the House of Representatives. James is analyzing bills for the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee and writing analysis prior to these bills coming to the floor.

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RLC member Charles Byrne of Cuyahoga County, **Ohio**, was elected to the Ohio School Board, receiving 52 percent of the vote to defeat a union-backed Democrat. The former Cleveland Heights School Board member will serve a four-year term at the state post. Byrne campaigned on a platform of vouchers, phonics, fundamentals and free market funding of schools.

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Lonnie Brantley, the acting RLC chairman for **Texas**, reports that Ron Paul's congressional victory is providing some momentum for the Texas RLC. Brantley accompanied Rep. Ron Paul to Washington in January. There he visited the offices of Sen. Phil Gramm, Sen. Kay Hutchison, Rep. Dick Armey, Rep. Brian Bilbray and Rep. Nick Smith and "of course enjoyed Ron's new digs." At Dr. Paul's victory reception, Gramm, Rep. Tom Delay, Rep. Phil Crane, Rep. Steve Symms, Larry Pratt, Bill Redpath and several others dropped by to pay their respects. Delay quipped that Rep. Paul "was there to be the conscience of the Republicans" and "would keep us honest." ("A tall order, indeed!" according to Brantley.) Rep. Paul warned his new staff that his would not be the normal congressional office. "There will be no compromise with totalitarians," he told Brantley and the others.

The Texas RLC recently held a successful barbecue. Brantley has identified State Sen. Jerry Patterson as a potential legislator to approach for support. Patterson is the author of the Texas Right-To-Carry gun law as well as being the opponent of things like helmet and seat-belt laws.

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Under the leadership of new chairman Rick Sincere, the RLC of **Virginia** will be holding a planning meeting in Charlottesville on April 19 in the early afternoon, with participants moving on to Michael's Bistro afterward. (Michael's Bistro is owned by Michael Crafaik, 1996 GOP candidate for Charlottesville City Council.) The April 19 meeting is preliminary to a statewide caucus of RLC members, possibly in conjunction with the state GOP convention in late May/early June. The April 19 meeting will be used to select interim officers and make plans for establishing a state RLC PAC for identifying and supporting candidates for state and local elective offices. For more information, check out the new homepage of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Virginia at: <http://members.aol.com/RLCVA/rlcva.html>.

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