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Jacob Reassigned, Turney Challenged: Indianapolis LNC Meeting

Indianapolis, IN - In a sometimes heated but largely routine meeting over the weekend of April 15-17 in Indianapolis, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) agreed to temporarily assign National LP Director Paul Jacob to the party's Ballot Access Committee (BAC) and also established a five member Executive Committee to oversee the operations of the national office.

Things had been fairly quiet until about a week before the meeting, when various rumors began to surface publicly. In one sense, it was an important meeting for LP chair Jim Turney and his supporters, who had strongly backed the transfer of LP headquarters from Houston to Washington for several years. They finally got their wish in January, when the new DC headquarters opened for business. Although few of the troubles aired at the meeting could be directly traced to the relocation itself, what was evident was that many of the highly touted benefits of the relocation (better supervision and management, greater news media attention, more efficiency) did not seem to materialize.

Even more troubling for Turney was that his "DC Team" management concept seemed to be falling apart, with serious rifts between LP Treasurer Clifford Thies and Turney as well as signs of strain between LP Director Jacob and the LP chair. Thies had become disillusioned with Turney prior to the meeting and was openly discussing efforts to unseat and remove him from office.

The meeting was held in the historic (if not slightly threadbare) Atkinson Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, which was also the site of the Indiana LP state convention, at which several LNC members also spoke. The meeting was held in an imposing, high ceilinged room, in contrast to the usual cramped motel meeting room atmosphere at recent meetings.

In addition to the LP, the hotel was full of local bell-ringer choirs, a midwestern musical phenomena where several hundred people ring bells of different kinds to create music. The weather was bright and clear, but few LNC members ventured out to en-

joy it or the nearby Hoosier Dome, or the renovated Union Station shopping/restaurant complex.

Instead, NatCom members gathered at 10:00 am on Saturday and began complaining about a previous mail ballot proposal involving suggested budget changes. The mail ballot died for lack of a quorum, and apparently most LNC members failed to receive the proposal in time to vote on it. And those who did for the most part didn't understand it. In one of the concrete actions taken, the party's board of directors voted to require certified mail or equivalent service for future mail ballots to avoid these glitches.

LP chair Jim Turney then offered his report, beginning with the statement "The coup rumors some of you have been hearing the past two or three days, saying 'this is going to be my last meeting,' are not true. I'm not going to resign." Following this startling introduction, which brought a silence over the gathering, Turney followed up by noting that "such rumors are not constructive to the business of the party" and indicated that this was evidence of frustration by various people, and urged those unhappy with things to call him directly.

Turney then announced new committee appointments and noted committee chair vacancies.

National Director Paul Jacob, in his report on how the LP office operates, said "I got more sleep as an underground fugitive (for failing to register for the draft) than I do as National Director." Jacob also heard, and responded to, a number of complaints about operations in the office. Although little of the criticism was aimed directly at him personally, there seemed to be a widespread feeling that LP headquarters operations were not operating up to par.

Almost lost in the complaints was Jacob's report that membership in the LP was up substantially (to about 6100, plus several hundred non-paying "instant members") and that the LP income was above budgeted targets for the first quarter of the year; these substantial accomplishments coming after a complete personnel changeover, new computer systems and a headquarters relocation at the tail end of 1987.

By far the longest presentation was from LP Treasurer Thies, who had a lengthy report, several months worth of financial statements (finally brought up to date) and a number of resolutions to propose.

Thies more or less led an assault on Turney, although his performance was hampered by his admitted fatigue and emotional exhaustion, brought on by long hours put in preparing his reports immediately prior to the meeting, getting the FEC report out, and his frustration over perceived



LP Treasurer Thies used the overhead projector to detail facts and figures in his reports. He led the major assault on Turney's management of the LP office.

slights and mistreatment by Turney and his advisors.

As one LNC member later noted, the public business of the meeting tended to mask and shadow the real underlying issues; namely the performance and credibility of Jim Turney's leadership now that he had finally gotten his DC headquarters and other leadership changes.

Thies presented a series of resolutions, about mostly technical or minor matters, but symbolically many of them represented attacks on the chair. Unfortunately for Turney, two of his strongest supporters on the LNC (Ted Brown, newly elected California chair, and *Activist News* editor Sharon Mitchell) did not attend the meeting and he was forced to rely largely on the defense of his two oldest advocates, Maryland's Paul Kunberger (also Finance Committee chair) and West Virginian Steve Fielder.

After clarifying FEC reporting respon-

sibilities for the Ballot Access Committee (they were instructed to do their own reports), Thies launched into an attack on Turney's use of the \$1,000 "officer's expense" budget item, contending that Turney had already spent half of the budgeted funds on his own telephone bills, leaving next to nothing for the other officers. In particular, Thies seemed incensed at a requested \$28 reimbursement for his own expenses which he said vanished into thin air without action after sending it to the office.

Following up on a letter from David Bergland, who has long been critical of Turney, about allocation of office long distance phone charges, the LNC voted to require allocation of the chair's telephone bill expenses to "officer expenses" and immediately thereafter voted to prohibit Turney from receiving any further expense

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Lewis Sent to Allenwood Prison

Montgomery, PA - Convicted tax resister Jim Lewis reported to Allenwood Federal Prison Camp at 11:15 a.m. on April 27 to begin serving the one year jail portion of his three year sentence on three counts of "willful failure to file" federal income taxes for three years. Lewis was accompanied by his mother and a supporter, Gwyneth Hamilton Bear, when he arrived at the minimum security prison facility.

Described as "not a country club", Allenwood is in north central Pennsylvania just south of Williamsport, with dormitory-style facilities and a furniture factory on the premises. There are approximately 800 inmates in dorms of 60, with a large population of black and hispanic inmates. Ninety percent of the offenders are imprisoned as a result of drug related convictions.

Lewis waited a full three weeks after

sentencing before he was notified of where to report, and was reportedly in good spirits after the 5½ hour drive from his Connecticut seashore home. According to supporters, he was assigned the usual prison rookie "top bunk" in his dorm, and was also recognized by several inmates upon arrival.

He is working on a book about the U.S. Constitution during his spare time and even located one libertarian book in the prison library. Lewis is allowed to make periodic collect telephone calls, and can receive mail although it is likely to be opened and examined for contraband. He can also receive books, but can only keep five at a time and they must be softcover volumes.

He is looking forward to mail and those interested in dropping him a line can write: James A. Lewis, A-2 09357-014, Box 1000, Montgomery, PA 17752.■

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reimbursements from that budget item. Efforts by Fielder to delay implementation of the measure failed, as well as a motion to table it (by a 10-12 vote), signaling Turney's vulnerability in later votes.

All party officers were also ordered to give up any LP credit cards or long distance service access codes, although it was unclear whether any of them had use of such things.

Following this, after discussion indicating that Turney's pet project, the *Activist Network News* newsletter was running up a large deficit in spite of being budgeted to break even, the first roll call vote of the session approved terminating the publication in a 19 to 7 vote.

After an overhead slide presentation on financial trends, Thies warned of impending cash shortages despite the better-than-budgeted first quarter financial results and cautioned against what he said were Turney's plans for additional spending on new staff and projects, noting that the accounts payable situation was large and needed immediate reduction before the traditionally slower second and third quarters were too far underway. Contending that Turney had circumvented the LNC resolution requiring Treasurer approval prior to payment of \$1,000+ obligations in a number of cases, Thies proposed that he be given approval authority and mandatory check approval for all disbursements in excess of \$100. Don Ernsberger proposed raising this to \$1,000 and Bergland suggested \$500, which was then adopted. This financial limitation was the first major change enacted to limit Turney's authority during the meeting.

Several other "housekeeping" type resolutions were addressed but finally Thies ran out of both time and energy to continue on with his original set of proposed resolutions, and in so doing, ended his assault on Turney.

California's Melinda Pillsbury-Foster circulated a letter in which she complained about Turney's endorsement of one of her rivals during the February California LP convention for state chair. She claimed that Turney's public endorsement and seconding speech (for eventual winner Ted Brown) "violated his authority" as LP chair and was an unprecedented interference by a national LP chair in internal state LP politics.

Turney listened politely, did not say much in response other than to note he violated no known LNC resolutions, and after some discussion the matter ended without further action.

Membership Committee chair Matt Monroe reported on membership efforts, and a new \$25 membership category was discussed. Monroe also complained that for the second issue in a row, the party newspaper *Libertarian Party News* had failed to include a membership application, despite a formal vote to do so taken at the last LNC meeting.

Monroe questioned newspaper editor Karl Hess's motives in omitting the membership application, and the LNC re-passed the resolution previously made requiring the paper to include the application. This also prompted Lew Rockwell, Jr., an outspoken critic of Hess, to criticize *LP News* as "boring and irrelevant, which also has failed to include an editorial endorsement of Ron Paul which (Hess) promised." This complaint was somewhat off the business at hand and a later agenda item by Rockwell on *LP News*, plus another *LP News* agenda item by Gary Johnson of Texas, were not taken up by the LNC before it adjourned.

LP Finance chair Paul Kunberger gave a

glowing report on LP finances, indicating success with the pledge program and telephone fundraising, and indicated that the direct mail effort would soon be producing results based on a recent mailing.

A critical letter from telemarketing contractor Alexis Thompson was circulated prior to the meeting, in which she complained of inadequate cooperation from the national office in handling paperwork and updating names and phone numbers. She was also critical of the parallel in-house telephone operation and also complained about late payment and lack of information on her commissions. (Thompson reportedly would have attended the meeting in person, a prospect which apparently worried Kunberger, but a plane ticket furnished by a friend and Turney foe was sent to the Phoenix airport instead of Tucson airport — where Thompson is based — in error.)

Kunberger's response to Thompson's complaints (she also had threatened possible legal action) was to say "I was hurt by the tone of her letter" and to quote a followup conversation where she reportedly said "but if the results are what you say they are, I should be fired", referring to the in-house phone operation.

Finally, in response to a question by Thies, Kunberger admitted that he "had exercised the option to terminate her contract." This revelation in itself didn't cause much discussion, but it apparently angered Thies, the Treasurer, to find out after the fact and only after questioning that the LP's largest funding source had been terminated unilaterally by Turney and Kunberger without consulting other LP officers.

In fact, this move seemed to precipitate plans to launch the much-rumored "coup" against Turney in late Saturday evening discussions, after the meeting adjourned for the day.

During the Indiana LP convention banquet and afterwards, Thies was busy lining up support from LNC members to add an item on the agenda early Sunday calling for Jim Turney to take personal responsibility for problems in the office and the efforts of the ballot drive in Turney's home state of Virginia, and to request his resignation as LP chair.

Thies needed two-thirds of the LNC to approve adding such an agenda item, and after diligent lobbying, by Sunday morning, he believed he had the needed votes. He was also willing to bring up matters of compliance with LNC resolutions on obtaining approvals of the Treasurer and telephone expenses, in an all-out push to force Turney out.

Turney and his allies were depressed over this development and the general direction of the meeting. They were also annoyed at



National LP Director Paul Jacob, detailed by the LNC to the Paul campaign, spoke to Indiana LP convention delegates about effective use of news media opportunities.



Paul campaign chair Burt Blumert surprised some LNC members when he proposed that Paul Jacob be assigned to the campaign in return for discharge of ballot access funding promises.

having to fend off the Treasurer's attacks, who only weeks before had seemed firmly on the Turney "team". But Turney quietly did some of his own lobbying, not quite sure of what might happen. Also, by Saturday evening, Thies was nearly burned out from exhaustion and seemed to some to be pursuing a personal vendetta against Turney rather than rescuing the LP from bad management.

Thies pressed on when the meeting resumed on early Sunday morning, but was losing his effectiveness (which he admitted later to the LNC) due to his physical state, and also realized he lacked a "smoking gun" item to justify a call for Turney's ouster. In general, most LNC members appeared to desire more stability, not less, and greater attention to getting routine work done rather than dramatic leadership changes.

On Sunday morning, two other developments surfaced which were designed to rein in Turney's authority that also mollified Thies.

First, Ballot Access Committee chair and Paul campaign chair Burt Blumert noted the considerable progress being made on ballot access and said, "As a businessman I have to recognize when it's time to deal." He was referring to the LP's stated \$31,500 budgeted obligation to fund ballot access. Despite the relatively good party financial news, the LP had only actually paid the BAC \$5,000.

"Problems at the headquarters are not my problem," Blumert candidly noted, "but ballot access is the priority." He went on to note that LP Director Paul Jacob's most recognized talents were in the area of being a representative for the LP, not necessarily in administration of the office. And he noted

that organizing, monitoring and motivating petition drive efforts in the field called for someone with Jacob's talents, a position which the Paul campaign and the BAC had not yet filled.

So, based on prior discussions — which had been kept confidential — with both Jim Turney and Paul Jacob, who had all agreed to it for various reasons — Blumert proposed that Paul Jacob be assigned on a temporary basis, until November 8, to work on ballot access and other projects for the Paul campaign. Jacob would be kept on the LP payroll at the same salary, but his salary costs would be charged against the LP's ballot drive budget item to reduce that obligation.

This caused considerable surprise to many LNC members. Some resented the fact that the popular Jacob would be working for the campaign instead of the LP. Others thought it odd that Jacob's fate was being discussed like a piece of property, or a baseball player about to be traded. However, according to reliable accounts, both Jacob and Turney were happy with the idea for different reasons: Jacob had grown to chafe under Turney's sometimes difficult leadership style, while Turney felt the move might help solve some managerial difficulties and would allow him to replace Jacob with someone more loyal to the chair.

A number of LNC members questioned the basis for the idea. Don Ernsberger noted that this move contradicted the plan for national LP headquarters operation Turney had been selling at the last vo LNC meetings. Steve Givot thought the plan might be a good idea, but that it made him "uneasy" over who would be running the show in the future. Questions quickly focused on how the transition would be handled, and for how long Jacob would be detached to the campaign.

A proposal was made to split and re-frame the issue. But a move to term the switch a "temporary assignment" as part of Jacob's on-going LP duties, and another move to postpone the action until after an "office manager" was hired were both defeated.

On the second roll call vote of the meeting, the proposal passed 20 to 3, with only Ernsberger, Vickie Kirkland and David Hudson (the latter two from the New England region) opposed.

After this, a discussion about the possibility of looking into the idea of Federal campaign matching funds (or asking the Paul campaign to consider the idea), which was based on a memo circulated by Clifford Thies prior to the meeting, died without a

Keeping an eye on things, the Paul campaign monitored the LNC meeting. Paul campaign advisor Murray Rothbard, campaign manager Nadia Hayes and campaign finance chair (and LNC member) Matt Monroe watched the action from the sidelines.



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Turney on LNC Meeting

Although Jim Turney presented the reassignment of Paul Jacob to the Paul campaign "as the best hope, at this time, for the success of our ballot drive effort" he was not nearly so pleased with other actions taken in Indianapolis, judging from his post-meeting column in the May-June issue of the party paper *LP News*.

Although there was virtually no other news reported on the meeting in that issue, Turney nonetheless took some unusual potshots at his opponents in his column, which is usually devoted to inspiring party-building themes. In part, the national LP chair said,

I am not pleased with some of the other decisions made at this Indianapolis meeting. These decisions were made after I was charged with violating resolutions, abusing expense accounts, and general carelessness in performance of my duties. . . . I am getting tired of the National Committee meetings that are characterized by major structural or procedural changes proposed and enacted without prior notice or study. I am tired of criticism that is saved until a meeting, then suddenly and self-righteously proclaimed.

I am tired of misrepresentations of actions, situations, and numbers. I am particularly unhappy when these are used as a basis for accusations of incompetence and lack of integrity.

(Following five paragraphs responding to specific charges by the Treasurer): It bothers me that such serious charges of impropriety would be accepted without warning, without evidence, without question, and without delaying response until the accusation could be verified.

Much of the rest of his column is in similar vein, calculated to win him sympathy and expressing a sense of disappointment at the behavior of the LNC. It also includes a major factual error, alluding to Paul Jacob's salary "for only \$21,000 a year", a figure which is several thousand dollars too low.

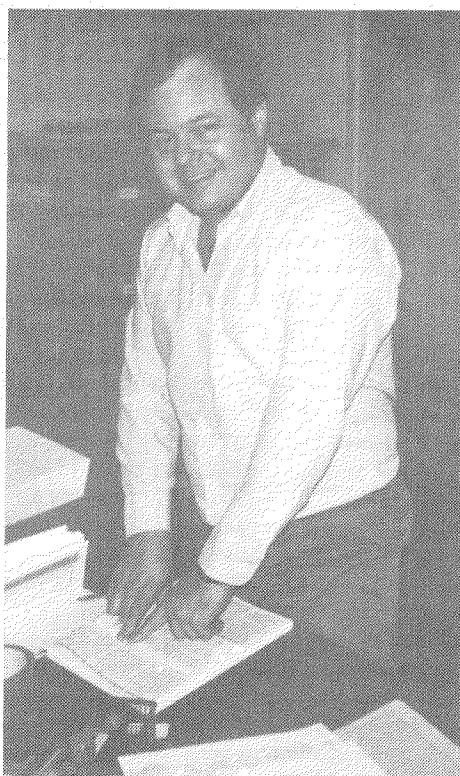
This outburst is also surprising given the lack of context provided in the paper and Turney's own silence during the meeting about the specifics of Thies's charges when they were brought up.

At one point in his column Turney says "No one asked for any details for clarification, much less to see photocopies of phone bills. No one asked me for an explanation, even though I was sitting right there."

While this is for the most part true, it is all the more puzzling for Turney to complain months after the meeting about it. After all, he was there (as he admits) and neither Turney nor his allies on the LNC asked for details, challenged Thies on his facts, volunteered an explanation, or moved to delay or study the matter at a future time.

Turney goes on to say in his column, "I believe it is the duty of officers to inform each other immediately if they perceive mistakes or oversight." It appears that Turney did not follow his own advice at the meeting, since neither he nor his supporters made any effort to dispute the Treasurer's charges. This led most LNC members to conclude that something needed correction.

Turney subsequently lost his expense account, his disbursement approval over \$500, and his freedom to run the national headquarters without authorization from the Executive Committee. ■



Alan Lindsay resigned his HQ position and has subsequently joined the Ron Paul campaign.

LP HQ Upheaval:

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

Washington, DC - Although the dust had barely settled following the Indianapolis LNC meeting, things at the national LP office began to quickly unravel.

Immediately upon his return LP Director Paul Jacob issued a tersely worded memo to LNC members suggesting that they not visit the national office without giving prior notice and without specific purpose in mind. This immediately prompted a negative reaction from LP Treasurer Thies, who was still pushing for changes upon his return, and who felt the memo may have been targeted at him. But other LP officers and LNC members were also offended, and after checking their own sources at the office concluded that Jacob's memo had been really targeted at them!

In reality, the move was designed to enhance the prospects of actually catching up with the huge work backlog and minimizing the time wasted by LP honchos hanging around the office kibitzing and discussing politics with each other and the office staff. Although the closeness of the new DC office to LP officers was touted as a plus by Turney in his pitch to move it from Houston, in practice, having the "chiefs" hanging around with the "Indians" trying to work has proven disruptive. By contrast, when the office was in Houston, only one LNC member lived nearby (Matt Monroe) and he always called before visiting and rarely lingered once business was accomplished.

After Jacob was dispatched to Houston to work with the Paul campaign (and subsequently to Maine to work on that ballot drive effort), a search began for an acting National Director/office manager to ramrod the office in Jacob's absence.

The logical choice seemed to be Communications Director Alan Lindsay, a close friend of Jacob's who had performed similar duties when Jacob had been frequently away from headquarters giving speeches. Lindsay was also the resident "computer guru" who managed the LP's two IBM PCs and produced most of the computer reports and lists. He was interviewed by Turney for

the post, along with several others, but Lindsay's sometimes blunt manner and occasional outspoken criticism of Turney essentially doomed his bid from the outset, according to sources on the LP's newly created Executive Committee. Although Turney praised him to the hilt and urged him to stay, Lindsay made it clear he wouldn't stick around in Jacob's absence if a complete stranger was going to be hired instead of him and if his potential for advancement was ended.

When it became clear that Lindsay was not in the running (reportedly after several days of trying to pin Turney down) Lindsay tendered his resignation and requested hefty severance pay in order to remain for a two week transition. Turney and Treasurer Thies nixed the severance deal so Lindsay stayed on only a week as a paid consultant. In the meantime, Paul campaign manager Nadia Hayes offered him a job in Houston and within days Lindsay was gone.

During the interim, decentralist libertarian and vehement Ron Paul critic Carol Moore, who had previously worked at the national office as a volunteer, was hired by Turney as a temporary, which is what Moore has been doing for a living since moving to Washington DC late last year. However, with only Administrative Assistant Barry Valentine left as a full time staffer (along with a part time employee) word quickly spread that Carol Moore had been chosen as "de facto acting Director", in the words of one outraged Paul campaign supporter.

Moore has been one of Ron Paul's bitterest critics and prior to his nomination, had issued some of the nastiest (or toughest, depending on your viewpoint) anti-Paul materials produced. Even after his nomination Moore was unrelenting in materials

issued by her personal front organization, Pro Choice Libertarians, mainly attacking Paul for his anti-abortion stance and perceived "right wing orientation."

Paul campaign manager Hayes jumped quickly into the fray, and bluntly told Turney that if Carol Moore wasn't soon out of the national LP office "this means war."

Carol Moore (who declined payment for her single day on the staff) was apologetically but quickly shown the door by LP chair Turney, and she promptly issued a letter absolving Turney and blaming the Paul campaign for her dismissal.

In the meantime, and apparently unrelated to these other developments, *LP News* editor Karl Hess issued his own memo to LNC members dealing with criticism leveled at him in the recent LNC meeting. Clearly on the defensive, Hess appealed for greater cooperation, vowed to put an endorsement of the Paul-Marrou ticket on the front page of the paper, and urged the LNC members to send him news items and the current version of the LP membership coupon so he could include these in the paper.

Finally, the oversight Executive Committee met by telephone and tentatively approved Turney's choice for acting National Director, Kirk McKee. Turney's chosen candidate is a DC area computer analyst with a background in accounting, whose previous record of LP activism included stints as a volunteer in the DC office. Originally recruited as a possible candidate for LP bookkeeper/office manager, instead Turney was impressed enough with his credentials to consider him for the acting Director post. Apparently, willingness to take orders and considerations of personal loyalty to the beleaguered LP chair were

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Helping Montana Take The Initiative



It's down to this:
I've got the name
recognition, media
attention, platform,
time and energy
necessary to get
elected this fall.
Now I'm hoping
you'll help me
finance this
remarkable chance
to "win one".

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ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
OCCUPATION (OPTIONAL)		

Libertarian Outlook

Libertarian Jailbirds

Unfortunately, it seems as if more and more stories about libertarians these days involve trials, convictions and imprisonment. This comes as something of a change since on the whole, despite the anti-government outlook, most libertarians are remarkably law-abiding people.

However, due to issues of principle, bad luck, or both, there are now several well known libertarians sitting inside prisons serving sentences. For libertarians, being ordered about by jailers represents the near absolute worst in government control and lack of individual freedom. The daily jailhouse grind is intentionally designed to deprive inmates of any sense of being in

charge of their own lives. We can only hope these unpleasant experiences make those libertarians inside stronger for them.

On the other hand, we would hope that this latest libertarian trend comes rapidly to an end. It is the State, of course, which determines who is selected for punishment and who is not. And with individual freedoms continually restricted, it is not always easy to avoid confrontation with the government.

However, as a general strategic principle, libertarians should strive to avoid actions which lead to prison. This may seem obvious and self evident, but these days one can't be so sure. ■

Signs of Encouragement

On these pages we try to report on activities of libertarians as they are, not necessarily as we wish they would be. This goes for coverage of the Libertarian Party presidential campaign and other candidates as well.

Although on the whole we are very sympathetic, at times it is necessary to report the bad news as well as the good. While this sometimes displeases those who only want to hear good news, in the long run a true reflection of reality will be of more benefit to libertarians than will a "good news only" policy.

Fortunately there are signs of encouragement about the 1988 LP election campaigns. The presidential campaign is making steady progress in both media coverage and ballot access efforts. Both Ron Paul and Andre Marrou are tirelessly crisscrossing the country with the libertarian message, and alerting Americans to a real political alternative. And once again there are a number of high quality, visible campaigns for lesser

offices, making serious bids for attention and votes.

It is a difficult job making a real news media breakthrough in a political system where the rules are rigged against you. The emphasis is on huge amounts of money spent to publicize trivial differences in personality or policy. But the major political parties have sorted out their candidates and produced uninspiring results. Perhaps attention will now be shifted to other political alternatives. Certainly the public deserves a better choice than a Jimmy Carter clone with a New England accent versus a professional second banana-cum-Establishment flunky.

Libertarian political action is a difficult and frustrating business. But the Libertarian Party is better positioned and better equipped than it has ever been to further its cause. With a lot of hard work and a lot of help, the LP could well be on the way to its most successful election year ever. ■

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.

Chester Alan Arthur Responds to His Critics

I cannot see that rehashing my discussion (Feb. 1988 AL) about the future to the Libertarian Party would serve any purpose. Reading over my essay, which I wrote last September, I believe my meaning is pretty clear, so I shall keep my response brief.

I share Mr. Clark's hope that the LP will remain a party of all those who value liberty; indeed, I think I pretty much share his sentiments as expressed in his letter. And Mr. Nolan's analysis of the Libertarian Party seems to make sense to me. Although I think both Mr. Clark and Mr. Nolan misconstrued my position: I warned the risk of sectarianism and destructive factionalism, but I did not see the party in such a state at present. And I am happy that these individuals, both with long experience in

the LP, see less potential of a split than do I.

As to Mr. Blumert, I think he misses my point when he accuses me of failing to note Ron Paul's commitment. My essay was a speculation about the future of the LP, not a discussion of Dr. Paul's character or personality. I have no doubt that Dr. Paul is committed to the struggle for liberty. What I fear is that Dr. Paul may believe that the struggle should be conducted only by a certain class of people, namely, his own constituency.

I am delighted that so prominent a member of the Paul camp as Murray Rothbard assures us that Ron Paul is in the Libertarian Party to stay. Rothbard's main criticism of my article, as I make it out from the caricature of my views that he presents, is that it is hopelessly naive in hoping for some sort of Utopian union of *luftmenschen* and *bourgeois*. After re-reading my essay, I can find nothing to support his interpretation. Contrary to the impression Rothbard gives, my essay did not call for all libertarians to enter "a new age of peace and harmony... to see into each other's true souls... and gather at the river and [enjoy] peace everlasting." What I called for was an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation in the pursuit of liberty, which I believe can be achieved without the absurdities of Mr. Rothbard's parody.

One point that does bother me: both Mr. Blumert and Mr. Rothbard launch ad

hominem attacks on my choice of Chester Alan Arthur as a penname.

Mr. Blumert's description of the historic Chester Alan Arthur is vicious: the worst accusation that I can recall against Arthur was that he lusted for money. Mr. Meese is motivated by a far more sinister desire to control every American's private life. Clearly Mr. Meese is on a power trip, not a money trip. To my mind a lust for power over others is far more pernicious than lust for money.

Mr. Rothbard's views on Garfield and Arthur could mislead very easily: after Garfield's death, Arthur repeatedly tried to cut taxes, but was opposed at every turn by Garfield's allies in the Congress. I bring this up not because I wish to argue that my namesake is some sort of hero. I only want to point out that Dr. Rothbard's characterization of Arthur as a "statist" and of the Garfield and his cronies as the "quasi-laissez-faire wing of the Republican Party" might be a bit simplistic.

For the record, I chose Chester Alan Arthur as a pseudonym because he was pre-eminently a practical politician, just the sort of man qualified to comment on the practical politics of the Libertarian Party.

Okay, so this isn't a very brief response. What can you expect from a politician, anyway?

Chester Alan Arthur
San Luis Obispo, CA

"Who Detering Whom?"

I recently overheard two hard core libertarian friends of mine discussing Jim Lewis's conviction. One of these guys gave libertarians something to think about, so I'll relay the conversation in whole.

FRIEND ONE: "Can you believe that the government went to such great lengths to prosecute Jim Lewis for under \$14,000. After all, it cost them more than that just to prosecute the case."

FRIEND TWO: "Sure, but they argue that the prosecution is a deterrent to possible future tax evaders, and is therefore worth the money. Of course, I disagree with this but..."

FRIEND ONE: "Oh, I understand their argument. But think about it, if enough Jim Lewis's do likewise, who will be deterring whom from future activities?"

FRIEND TWO: "Interesting question. How long will it take the government to realize that a multitude of tax cases will actually be tremendously detrimental provided that the volume is sufficiently large?"

FRIEND ONE: "Interesting indeed!"

Thomas Lizardo
Treasurer, YAF
Niagara Falls, NY

"LROC changed spots?"

I read with interest your article on LROC and its change in strategy (April 1988 AL). Most of the article seems to be based on claims by LROC that they have changed their spots. But the April, 1988 issue of *Libertarian Agenda*, the LROC newsletter, contains another long attack on the Ron Paul campaign. I quote, "Ron Paul's right-wing... strategy is, at best, the kind of sick joke that embarrasses everybody but the jokester." I don't understand why you would say LROC is softening its anti-LP stand when it calls our largest political campaign a "kind of sick joke."

You also said that LROC was no longer trying to recruit from within the Libertarian Party and was now really going after Republicans. If this is so why did LROC spend so much time trying to recruit members at the California Libertarian Party convention? LROC requested a table at the convention. The convention committee turned them down. So LROC shows up anyway, sets up a table without convention per-

mission and begins passing out copies of its newsletter which contained very blatant anti-LP statements. When the convention committee closed this table down, the LROC people simply moved over to the FIFE (Freedom Is For Everyone) table. Throughout the entire convention they ignored the right of a private organization to establish who it wishes to be affiliated with and continuously passed out their anti-LP material at our convention.

LROC may be putting more of an emphasis on recruiting members within the GOP. They may now be praising George Bush for supposedly being pro-free trade (not true). They may be drooling over George "Aid to the Contras" Bush by proclaiming the "the Vice President seizes the moral high ground, managing to look Presidential while standing head and shoulders above the other candidates." But they haven't stopped their attack on the LP. They haven't even slowed down. The very same issue of their newsletter that praises Bush and his backers (whose "political instincts... are basically sound") contains the "sick joke" references to the LP and the Ron Paul campaign.

You also mentioned that LROC was "prominently mentioned in the *San Jose Mercury News*" but it really was only a mention. There was one sentence in the article about LROC, which stated that its goal was to "defend" the Reagan Revolution as well as "extend" it. This really is a strange goal for people who once claimed to be "radical" Libertarians. I am assuming that the quote attributed to Colin Hunter that LROC wants to "defend" Reagan is true, since LROC is distributing the article themselves and this is the only mention they received in the article.

In a previous issue you mentioned that LROC obtained a Libertarian Party mailing

Continued page 5

American Libertarian

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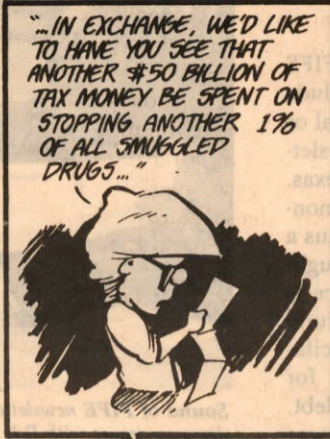
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Feedback

From page 4

list through the Russell Means campaign and that they were willing to purge those names from their mailing list since they were obtained without LP permission. But all those people whose names were gotten in this manner are still on the LROC mailing list. When will they keep their promise? It seems LROC says lots of things and continues to act in just the opposite way. I question whether the major LROC organizers can be trusted to tell the truth. As for now, we have no reason to believe them when they say they have changed their strategy. The only proof that I find acceptable would be a change in their actions.

John Tiritilli
San Francisco, CA

"What is going on in the DC office?"

I have a complaint about the Libertarian Party. Shortly after returning from the Seattle convention in September 1987, I sent them a small contribution to get on the mailing list for their newsletter and to pay for some brochures that I requested.

From the *American Libertarian* I discovered that they had moved offices to D.C. and resolved to be patient. In early February, I sent another contribution, this time to the D.C. address, together with a letter reminding them of my earlier donation and requests. It has been seven months since my first inquiry and I have still received no word from them.

I am a dedicated supporter, so I trust my money has been used wisely. I do wonder, however, if any first-time inquiries have been similarly treated. What exactly is going on in the D.C. office? At the very least, these bad business practices make their high sounding principles seem a little insincere.

Paul Geddes
Burnaby, B.C. Canada

FIFE is not a PAC

In your April issue, a special correspondent reported that LP Vice Presidential candidate Andre Marrou said his campaign is not receiving funds from the Freedom Is For Everyone (FIFE) caucus.

FIFE is a network of individuals and organizations. It has no central treasury, and certainly isn't a PAC, or a campaign fund collecting organization. It is not possible for FIFE to have given to the campaign.

Individuals who are part of the FIFE network have contributed to the Marrou campaign, however. Figuring out how many of them have, and how much, would be a time consuming and rather pointless exercise, comparing lists, etc.

FIFE's mission is communicating about freedom, by word and deed. It isn't a funding arm of the LP. To expect otherwise is to misunderstand FIFE.

Toni L. Black
King of Prussia, PA ■

Transitions

Born:

Pamela Ruth Evers, to Bill Evers and Mary Gingell, on February 14, 1988. Bill Evers is a long time LP activist and former editor of *Inquiry* magazine and *LP News*. Mary Gingell has also been active in the LP and is a former LP Vice Chair.

Died

Robert Anson Heinlein, 80, on May 7, in Carmel, CA of natural causes in his sleep. Heinlein had suffered from heart ailments and emphysema. Heinlein has been called the "dean of modern science fiction" and "the most important science fiction writer since H.G. Wells."

Heinlein wrote dozens of books and hundred of short stories in his fifty year writing career, including several with explicit libertarian themes. Perhaps his most libertarian book, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, described an anarcho-capitalist revolution of moon colonists from Earth rule. His fictional treatment of individual liberty themes paved the way for the strong libertarian tendency in much of modern science fiction writing.

rette, a black trade unionist who left the party in 1985, is quoted in the *Guardian* article as saying "the party is racist, sexist and homophobic." Serrette is also quoted as claiming, "the New Alliance Party is basically a therapy cult centered around the person of Dr. Fred Newman. Newman and his household maintain total control over member's lives, where they live and work, their wealth and also their relationships."

Newman responded to the *Guardian* claiming that Serrette is attacking the NAP out of spite: "Dr. Fulani (1988 NAP presidential candidate and psychologist Lenora Fulani) told Dennis she wouldn't subjugate her political beliefs to be 'his woman'." The NAP also indirectly responded to this attack in a letter to the editor in their own paper, which attacked the *Guardian* article as a "smear job".

In the past the NAP has promoted "rainbow coalition" politics, and some observers speculate that until recently, the NAP held the hope that Jesse Jackson would use their party in an independent third party presidential bid. Few give that prospect much chance these days.

And in an odd twist of irony, particularly

given the NAP's curious ties to the LaRouche organization (however old), the NAP was also recently handed a defeat in their attempt to take over the Illinois Solidarity Party (ISP) formed by the official Democratic party after two LaRouche Democrats won Democratic party nominations for statewide offices in 1984. The regular Dems quickly abandoned the ISP after 1984, but several NAP activists attempted to gain congressional nominations under the party's banner in 1988, since it had been recognized as an official political party. However, the Illinois Board of Elections ruled in early January that all but one ISP candidate did not have enough signatures to maintain ballot status for their 1988 races.

The New Alliance Party has maintained an effective ballot access effort for 1988, but nagging questions over the true nature of the NAP may limit its ultimate political effectiveness. ■

Notable Quotes



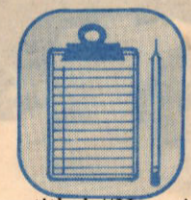
Socialist Feminist Revealed

"Some 4,000 Serbian women in the ethnically troubled Kosovo province demonstrated Friday after (former Yugoslav Vice President) Fadil Hodza was reported as saying rapes of Serbian women by ethnic Albanians could be reduced if Serbian women became prostitutes.

Belgrade newspapers had quoted him as saying, "Albanian women won't do it. Serbian and others would like to — so why not let them?"

Reuters, Belgrade, October 18, 1987 ■

Political Notes



New York, NY - The scrappy New Alliance Party has come under heavy critical fire from the leftwing newspaper *The Guardian*, in a December 1987 article entitled "New Alliance: Therapy cult or political party?"

In the article by *Guardian* correspondent Kevin J. Kelley, the New Alliance is deemed a LaRouchite offshoot run by Dr. Fred Newman, a onetime associate of LaRouche who claims to have split from the controversial rightwing cult leader in 1974 "when LaRouche was still into socialism." According to LaRouche researcher Chip Berlet, "Newman learned from LaRouche how to form a cult. Politics for both of them is just a veneer for a guru-type operation."

Although the exact political line of the NAP is somewhat murky (though replete with the usual "progressive socialist" positions like guaranteed jobs, farm subsidies, increased welfare benefits, government health care, etc.) the trademark tipoff of the party is the term "Social Therapy", a specific version of psychotherapy which has become mandatory for key NAP cadre. The group is linked to the Institute for Social Therapy, and their newspaper *The National Alliance* is heavy with references and advertisements for social therapy.

Despite NAP rhetoric about being pro-feminist, pro-gay rights and anti-racist, 1984 NAP presidential candidate Dennis Ser-

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FIFE Meets in Dallas

by American Libertarian Special Correspondent

Dallas, TX - "We have to invest now for freedom in the future," Russell Means told FIFE members at a convocation in Dallas, TX April 30 and May 1.

About thirty supporters gathered to draft the basic documents and to launch the task forces that define FIFE (Freedom Is For Everyone). FIFE, begun as a caucus of the LP in Seattle after Means' unsuccessful bid to be the presidential nominee, now reaches beyond the LP.

Means' investment plea was directed toward fundraising to establish a national office for FIFE, but also characterized the whole meeting. The time and energy of those attending, and of many others who participated in the meeting preparation, are invested in FIFE's future.

"We have proven that freedom simplifies one's life," Cynthia Nolen said, pointing out that the group had reached consensus on fundamental documents — FIFE's Statement of Principles, Mission Statement and organization plan — that fit on one 8½ x 11 sheet of paper.

The Statement of Principles contains just three segments. It reads:

We believe that

- people should be free to govern their own lives and property and to choose any peaceful and honest way of life, while accepting full responsibility for the consequences of their choices.
- no individual, group, institution, or government has the right to initiate the use of force; and
- freedom, based on individual responsibility and mutual respect, fosters the best forms of society.

The organizational structure arrived at in Dallas is decentralized. FIFE is a network of individuals and organizations subscribing to the Statement of Principles. The fundamental operating unit is the chapter or task force, established by members on the basis of shared interests — without geographical boundaries. Membership is free, but being on the mailing list costs \$1, and getting the newsletter (*The Sound of FIFE*) is by separate subscription. All task forces are self supporting.

Ebner Garners 9.9%

Austin, TX - Libertarian City Council candidate Fred Ebner received 9.9% of the vote on May 10 in a hotly contested three-way race. The incumbent councilman narrowly retained his seat by a mere 600 votes, finishing just barely over 50%. The other major challenger received the other 40%.

According to Ebner campaign sources, the victorious incumbent spent well over \$120,000, the second place finisher spent in excess of \$70,000, while Ebner's largely grassroots effort spent only \$8,000.

While somewhat disappointed with the defeat in what turned out to be the most intense Austin election race of the year, Ebner's campaign manager Honey Lanham noted, "we're not happy, but not disappointed either. We gained a lot of credibility, received a lot of media attention and involved a lot of new people with Fred's race."

In addition to the new names and supporters identified, Lanham noted that the local Libertarian Party has retained the use of the donated storefront for Ebner campaign headquarters in a north Austin strip shopping center, which was supplied and furnished by non-libertarian Ebner backers. ■

Task force groups also met in Dallas. FIFE internal function working groups include the newsletter (third issue), the national or "first" office, and fundraising. The newsletter will be moving from California to Texas. There are plans for a 'quick and dirty' monthly edition with task force updates, plus a quarterly magazine-type issue with thought pieces and depth. The office task force is scouting for locations and staff. The fund raisers are looking to telephone solicitations, direct mail and merchandising for satisfaction of the Means campaign debt, establishment of the office, and a "war chest" for future political campaigns.

Other task forces that met included the Free Bank, a FIFE presence in the LP and other political activity, cable TV production, initiatives, legal defense, comics and other literature development, free enterprise zones, seminar preparation and campus organizing.

The Free Bank project, described by Montana libertarian activist Larry Dodge as "a multi-faceted bomb shell of a demonstration project," has attracted a lot of attention. The project is to establish a bank on Indian reservation land which would be free of federal scrutiny (offering privacy to depositors and investors) and backed by gold. A tentative site has been selected and negotiations are under way, as are legal research and investor surveys.

The other task forces reported their plans and the campus organizers announced that a chapter has been officially recognized by Penn State University.

For additional information about FIFE, contact: Cynthia Nolen, P.O. Box 1748, Whitney, TX 76692-1748, (817) 694-3991. ■

Norma Jean Denied

Norco, CA - Cop-turned-callgirl and former California LP Lt. Governor candidate Norma Jean Almodovar had her recent legal appeals denied by the California Appeals Court in mid-April on a 2-to-1 vote. A lower court judge had denied a previous appeal bid without cause the day after the CBS program *Sixty Minutes* aired a segment on her case in the February. Her appeals have been based on Federal constitutional grounds of "cruel and unusual punishment" over her three-year prison sentence for pandering, a virtually unheard of length of incarceration for first time offenders of this victimless crime.

According to Norma Jean, she intends to pursue the appeal attempts through the federal courts.

In addition, the London-based Amnesty International organization is evaluating her case for "prisoner of conscience" status, due to the unusual circumstances surrounding her arrest and conviction.

During the two-month period following the nationally televised *60 Minutes* program, Norma Jean Almodovar conducted more than 30 radio interviews from around the country over the hall telephone in her prison dormitory. She was also featured in an April *Playboy* article, and Cable News Network and the *Current Affairs* television program are interested in film interviews.

With time off for good behavior, Norma Jean has already served about half of her expected 18 month term in the California prison for women.

"Will I be able to cope with another 8 months?" Almodovar asked in recent correspondence to *American Libertarian*, "I



Sound of FIFE newsletter editor Mike Mayakis discusses issues with B.J. Shipp of Shreveport, LA.



The free bank project was the subject of much discussion. From left, Bruce Baechler, Cheryl Moore, Dan Lantz, Margo Hamilton, David Eagle

don't know. I just hope that when I get out of here, I'll be able to get over the anger quickly."

"As far as the book is concerned, we've had several publishing offers," she noted, concerning the manuscript *From Cop to Callgirl* which she reconstructed after the original copy was confiscated by Los Angeles police. "But all of the publishers wanted to purge the book of philosophical content and make it strictly a sex and police corruption tale — with none of the events that led to my incarceration."

"Naturally, I'm not going for that," she

said, "I've been through too darn much and paid too high a price to let them do that to my book. Somehow, somewhere, I'll find someone with courage to do it my way. Know any libertarian publishers who might be interested?"

In the meantime, she awaits the outcome of continued legal appeals and worries about the health of her husband, who was injured in an auto accident last summer and needs surgery.

For more information, contact: Friends of Norma Jean, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave. #580, Hollywood, CA 90028. ■

Ron Paul on the Campaign Trail



Ron Paul did not spare the Reagan administration during this 15 minute speech at the late February conservative forum. His presentation received considerable applause at the end.

Tax Defeated Again

Roselle, IL - Just months after voters in this small Chicago suburb defeated a dedicated library tax, ("Walsh Defeats Library Tax", Nov. 1987 *AL*) the Library District Board managed to get the measure approved for a special February election. It was voted down again by over 2-to-1, 2,009 to 990.

In the battle last fall, Gerry Walsh and Helen Hyden threatened legal action to stop the Library Board from using tax funds to subsidize their tax increase push. Voters then stopped the measure by more than two to one. The same tactics were used in the new election, with a group of about 12 volunteers distributing anti-tax literature to every home in Rosell. According to Heyden, the literature was well received and the group received offers of help from new volunteers, who opposed the tax because of high property taxes and inefficient use of existing library funds. ■

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Indianapolis

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vote after time for discussion was up.

The date for the next national LP convention (to be held at Valley Forge, PA) was set for July 25-30, 1989. After the offer from the San Antonio LP to host the 1991 LP presidential nominating convention was withdrawn, all but two LNC members voted to accept the Chicago bid for the convention in preference to a San Francisco bid. It is scheduled to be held at the downtown Chicago Marriott Hotel over Labor Day weekend, August 28-September 1, 1991.

The audit report, given by Mike Holmes, was critical of a number of management practices but attempted to put the problems in perspective, noting the staff was working towards improvement. "If bookkeeping were the root of the LP's problems, they could be easily solved by hiring a legion of accountants," he said.

In the second major move which restricted chairman Turney's authority, the Management Committee recommended the establishment of a newly created Executive Committee, consisting of the LP officers and the chair of the Management Committee to have full oversight authority over functions and personnel at the national headquarters.

This subcommittee was designed to both insulate the office from LNC politics, by broadening responsibility for major decisions to five people instead of just the chair, as well as to forestall fears about Turney's management authority by making him accountable to the committee for office decisions. Confined in an amendment to the "Management of the office and staff," a move to include the Finance Committee chair (Turney ally Kunberger) was defeated and the Executive Committee proposal passed on a voice vote. It was also required

that the LNC appoint the chair of the Executive Committee, and that it report its actions in writing to the LNC.

Management Committee chair Gerry Walsh, Treasurer Clifford Thies and Vice chair David Walter were all proposed as possible Executive Committee chairs (LP Chair Turney was not proposed), and Walter was elected after a brief discussion.

California LP representative Mark Hinkle presented the computer auditor's report criticizing the changeover in software from what had been originally purchased by Alan Lindsay, and accused Director Jacob of lying to him about the matter.

Jacob heatedly denied the allegation and angrily responded to the charge.

A discussion on a proposed Ron Paul campaign contract with the national LP, initiated by Don Ernsberger, took an unusual and unprecedented turn. After reporting that the Paul campaign wasn't too interested in such a contract, after they learned that no previous LP candidate ever actually agreed to a contract, and after Paul campaign manager Nadia Hayes, and campaign officers Blumert and Rockwell (who are on the LNC) had also departed the meeting to head home, there was some discussion of using Paul Jacob's assignment to the Paul campaign as leverage to accelerate action on the contract.

After considerable discussion, in which nothing much was resolved, the LNC voted to strike discussion of this matter from the minutes. No one can remember this ever happening at a NatCom meeting, regardless of subject.

Finally, various budget amendments were proposed, including \$1,000 towards the Executive Committee expenses (which, in effect, partially restored reimbursing Turney's telephone expenses cut earlier in the meeting). The overall budget total was not increased.

The next two meetings of the LNC are scheduled for August 20-21 in San Mateo (near the San Francisco airport at the Crowne Plaza hotel) and for Oklahoma City, OK December 3-4.

LP Chair Turney was reportedly discouraged and slightly depressed at the way the meeting went, considering how the LNC had narrowed his spending and oversight authority over the national office. He absorbed considerable criticism over nuts-and-bolts management issues and never really strongly defended the headquarters operations or his own actions. However, in part because of concrete accomplishments like membership growth and financial performance, no dramatic attempts to directly remove him emerged.

His most persistent critic, Clifford Thies, backed off from his original threat to introduce a motion requesting Turney's resignation, and later said he was satisfied with the increased financial oversight and the establishment of the Executive Committee as controls over Turney's management authority.

LP chair Turney has a history of being challenged and attacked at NatCom meetings, and it is something of a puzzle to observers to understand why he is so vulnerable and why he fails to head off major criticism of his actions.

But in the end, no major upheavals or "coups" took place, perhaps because in light of the usual complaints about the operation of the national LP and its office, most LNC members recognized that this is more or less a sideshow to the real business at hand: the most important election year campaign for the LP since 1980. ■

Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

From page 3

also key elements in Turney's decision. A followup Executive Committee meeting in mid-May to finalize this choice was postponed when Turney himself couldn't be reached for the previously scheduled telephone meeting.

Opinions vary about the current state of the office. Clearly the turnover and upheaval hasn't helped to solve many problems. One observer regularly on the scene said things were more or less normal and that little additional disruption would occur. Another insider reports that work had come to a virtual halt and newly hired McKee was consumed with efforts to get the computer operations up and running. No plans have been announced to replace Lindsay, straining the short-handed staff even further.

While McKee has an extensive computer background, it is with large mainframe systems rather than PCs. And disrupted computer operations will adversely affect fundraising and membership processing if not quickly brought up to speed.

While comings and goings of LP staff rare-

Expunged Minutes Revealed

Roberts Rules of Order says in a footnote, "where it is desired not only to rescind the action but to express very strong disapproval, legislative bodies have on rare occasions voted to rescind the objectionable resolution and expunge it from the record, which is done by crossing out the words. . ."

Since this unprecedented action by the LNC was taken in Indianapolis and the expunged wording was crossed out, it is not difficult to determine what the offending section said. In item 25. UPDATE ON RON PAUL CONTRACT: the expunged minutes read,

Turney asked that a note from Nadia Hayes to William Hall be entered into the record: "You may accept this note as confirmation that the Paul Campaign has agreed to allow the LP to use its lists for direct mail 4 times after the campaign. We also require that the direct mail package be approved by Ron Paul — this is a 'market' routine requirement.

"This promise was made by me in March 1988."

"Beyond this statement, is a further contract necessary? I don't believe so.

(signed) Nadia Hayes, GM, Ron Paul for President."

Turney added that he had also obtained an agreement that they would include certain LP materials in all their mailings but that this is not being consistently done.

Legal Committee chair William Hall then proposed a motion (which is on the official record) which said that the contract approved by the LNC in Orlando "as modified by the letter of Nadia Hayes" would be complied with by the LNC as the contract with the Paul campaign. This motion passed on voice vote. Stephen Fielder then moved to expunge the text of the note by Hayes and Turney's comments, which also passed on a voice vote. ■

ly seem as important to the LP rank-and-file as they do to insiders, the rising chorus of complaints about headquarters operations will have to be addressed before too long.

The final barometer will ultimately be finances. While slightly above budget during the first quarter, April revenues were reportedly 20% under budget and certain costs, like rent, will rise because the departed Alan Lindsay was paying the rent on the first floor of the LP townhouse and living there.

Two things seem clear: Kirk McKee has his job cut out for him and will need all the help he can get to master the problems at hand. And Jim Turney's promise of a highly efficient, highly visible national LP office in Washington DC has not materialized. ■

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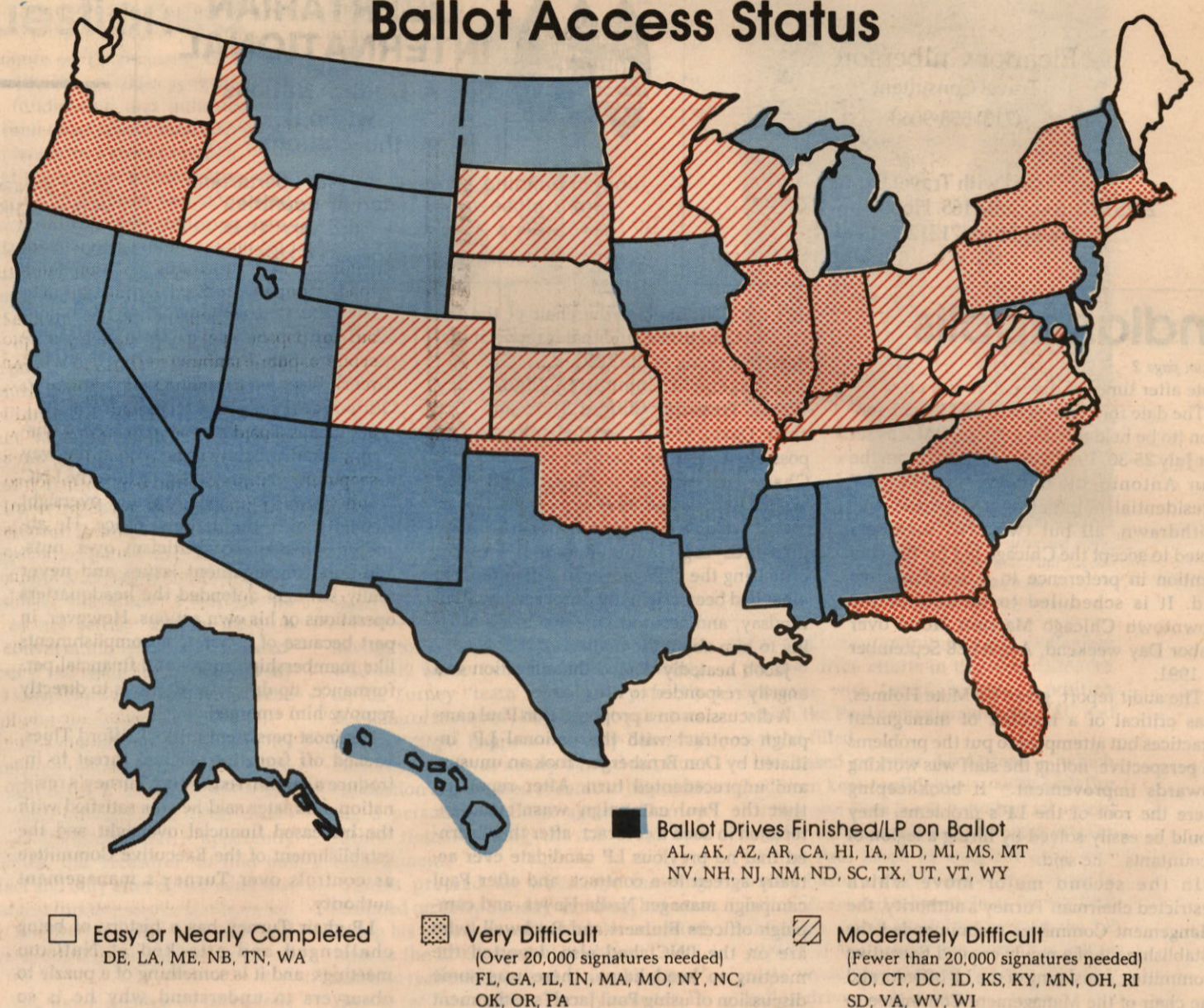
Ballot Access Briefs

- According to Richard Winger, LP ballot access consultant, it takes about 725,000 valid petition signatures to place a presidential ticket on all fifty state ballots (plus DC) using the easiest possible method, which often precludes running other party candidates. At a 70% signature validity rate, this requires over 1 million signatures collected to place a "minor party" candidate on election ballots. By contrast, major party candidates usually need to collect less than 100,000 signatures for their primary ballot candidacies.
- Although they extended their deadline until July 12 (from May 17) it appears that North Carolina (44,535 valid signatures) is on the critical list for LP ballot status, although there are also other difficult states to be completed as well. The ballot access handicappers say 45-47 states is highly likely, 48-49 is possible and all fifty states (plus DC) is very unlikely at the moment. As of late April, the LP's Ballot Access Committee had raised over \$130,000 so far in 1988.
- The socialist New Alliance Party is likely to place close behind the LP in the 1988 ballot status race, with no other party coming even close. Although they are running a very energetic and well funded effort, informed sources indicate that it is likely that money woes and inevitable legal slip ups will slow down the NAP effort in the final stretch.
- The rightwing Populists, who recently lost their VP candidate (but replaced him) is likely to be on the ballot in only about 17 states.
- The LP recently lost court ballot access challenges in Oregon and Oklahoma. You can't even register "Libertarian" in Oklahoma and non-presidential candidates need 5% of registered voters to appear on state ballots. The Texas case challenging a voter registration number requirement on petitions was won by the LP in federal district court but the state is appealing the decision to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- While still cautious, most observers are now optimistic about LP ballot access efforts, in contrast to the alarm and gloom evident only a few months ago. ■

COMING ATTRACTIONS

AL Interviews: Kerry Welsh, John Trever, Robert Poole Jr.
 Mickelson in the Morning
 Montana LP Denounces Candidate Koch Cuts Off CSMP
 Arizona's Strange Politics, Stranger Justice
 Western YAF Convention Report
 DC LP Candidates Arrested
 Why Ron Paul Should Accept Federal Matching Funds
 LP Candidate Roundup
 Rothbard on the Boom, Bust and Boom in Austrian Economics
 Book Reviews: "Freedom Under Siege", "Capitalism for Kids"
 Plus cartoons, political notes, media watch and more...

Ballot Access Status



Penn., W. Virginia Hold State Conventions

by *American Libertarian* Special Correspondent

Gibsonia, PA - The Pennsylvania and West Virginia Libertarian parties met in joint convention April 9 and 10 in Gibsonia, PA, near Pittsburgh.

Attendance was modest; about 35 people were at the program sessions. This is a drop off for the Pennsylvania party whose 1987 convention drew about 45 people. The alleged excitement at the grassroots about the Ron Paul presidential candidacy was not translated into participation at the convention, which featured Paul as the banquet speaker.

More people were on hand for the banquet itself, almost eighty in all. The Paul family and their guests helped swell the crowd — Paul was born and raised in Pittsburgh. While the attendance was good, fundraising for the difficult Pennsylvania ballot drive was disappointing. Attendees gave or pledged approximately \$2,300, which will be matched by pledges from the LPP Board members. The \$4,600 raised is well below the Pennsylvania LP's usual average of \$100 per banquet attendee, and is only a fraction of what is needed for the 25,000+ signature ballot drive.

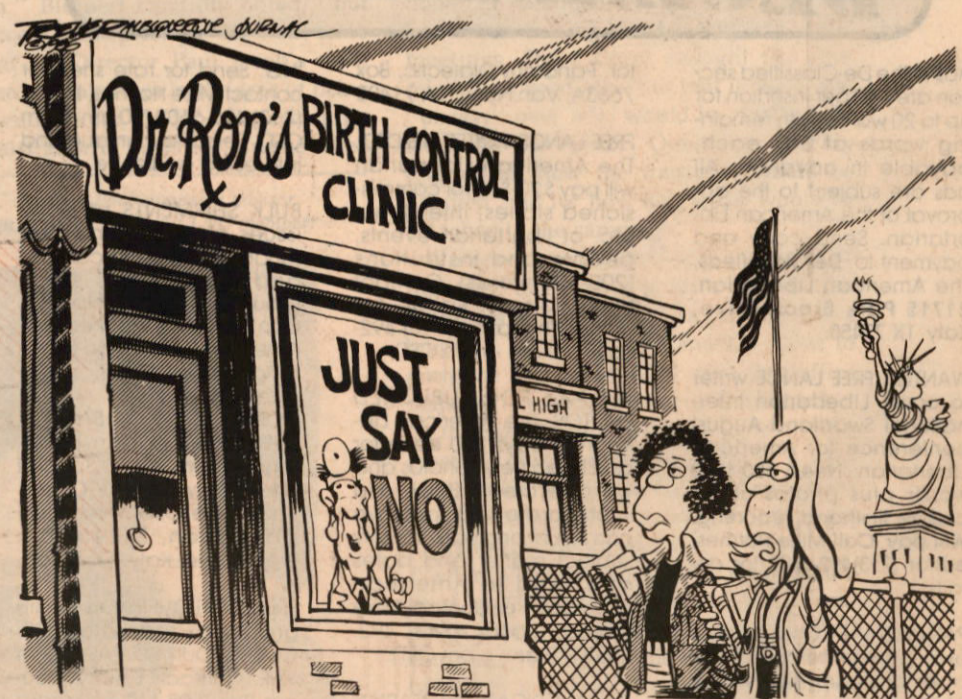
The convention program included petitioning how-tos, tips from a professional campaign consultant on political messages, an overview of national ballot access strategy by former Ballot Access Committee chair Stephen Fielder, libertarian historian Jeff Hummel's challenge on libertarian principles, and update on the Freedom Is For Everyone (FIFE) LP caucus, and observations from West Virginia-based LP News editor Karl Hess.

The Pennsylvania LP business session included election of a new state chair,

Philadelphian John Famularo. He was elected by acclamation in a show of unity, but a number of questions were raised about potential conflict of interest due to his role as a regional coordinator for the Libertarian Republican Organizing Committee. Other officers were reelected.

The LPP also endorsed a slate of candidates for statewide offices and the congressional candidacy of Don Ernsberger. A very delicately worded resolution of support for Rich Caligiuri, running for Congress as a Republican (in contrast to his 1984 LP candidacy) was also passed.

On the up side, party regulars enjoyed the opportunity get together again and there were some new faces at the meeting. Additionally, ballot access attorney Stephen Fielder disclosed that the "50 state in '88" strategy is nearly done for, barring a successful court case with an early decision in North Carolina (although subsequent to the convention the North Carolina Board of Elections extended the petitioning deadline from May 12 to July 17). Fielder said LP presidential ticket ballot status in 46 states seemed most likely, 49 is possible and 50 states would require a miracle. ■



"WASN'T THAT HIS PLAN FOR PREVENTING DEFICITS?"