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DC NatCom Follies:

POLITICS AS USUAL

Washington, DC - The April 22-23 Libertarian National Committee meeting held at the downtown Quality Inn Hotel took place the same day 10,000 Chinese students began marching for democracy and freedom in Beijing, China. But the world's largest libertarian membership organization wasn't taking any cues from the proto-libertarian heroics of China's student demonstrators. Instead, the NatCom script had all the earmarks of political in-fighting, factionalism and leadership purges characteristic of the U.S. Congress, the decidedly non-libertarian institution just down the street and within eyesight of the libertarian gathering.

Return of the Berglandistas

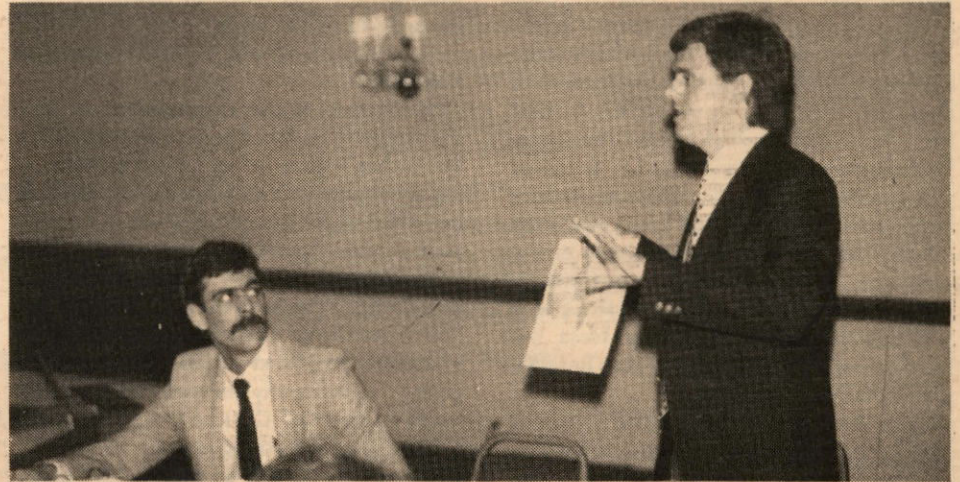
The eastern seaboard location of the meeting for the first time in over a year gave numerical superiority to both major NatCom factions, which tend to be dominated by eastern libertarians.

Strongest politically is the Walter-Berglandista faction, consisting of top party officers and former members of the David Bergland led *Berglandista* faction, a group once nearly wiped out by Turney's chair victory at the 1987 Seattle LP convention but now returned with a vengeance. Ironically, David Bergland himself orchestrated the events which led to Jim Turney's resignation at the Oklahoma City NatCom meeting last December, which thanks to Turney's one condition for resigning - promotion of long-time Berglandista lieutenant David Walter as the new chair - paved the way for the Berglandista resurgence. Both Walter and Bergland received promotions to LP chair and vice chair respectively at Turney's expense, and former Turney ally Steve Fielder was rewarded for his defection to the Walter-Berglandistas by election as LP treasurer by the NatCom.

This faction, while numerically inferior to the Turneyite NatCom wing, holds nearly all major LP leadership positions. Walter has purged most national LP committee posts and filled them with Berglandistas or their sympathizers. Also joining this faction are longtime Walter sidekick Don Ernsberger (who along with Walter, continues to run the

20-year-old dormant Society for Individual Liberty group), Bergland's wife Sharon Ayres, and former LP treasurer, Sam Trey-nor, (who didn't attend the DC meeting) and John Famularo, former Libertarian Republican Organizing Committee (LROC) Pennsylvania representative appointed as NatCom rep from Pennsylvania just in time for the DC meeting. Other key Berglandistas include long time LP political operator Bill Evers and his wife Mary Gingell, who aren't on the NatCom, though Gingell has received lavish public praise from Walter and appointment as Affiliate Party Committee chair. Aside from the three top LP officers - Walter, Bergland, Fielder (LP secretary Dean Ahmad is generally considered nonaligned with any faction), LP Audit and Management Committee chair Gerry Walsh and fellow Illinoisian Steve Givot have recently been very supportive of this faction, though they are not historically Berglandistas.

The Berglandistas have opposed the Turneyite group at every opportunity following the split between then chair Turney and his



Ballot access field coordinator and former national LP director Paul Jacob outlined his three year plan for 1992 LP ballot access in considerable detail at the NatCom meeting.

then vice chair Sharon Ayres in May of 1987, when Turney fired Ayres as LP Finance Committee chair, claiming she resigned. Recently however, in anticipation of Walter's as yet unannounced bid to remain LP chair at the Philadelphia convention the Walter-Berglandistas have adopted key elements of the Turneyite program, dubbed "Turneyism without Turney" (see "Shootout at the OK Corral" Jan '89 AL). In essence this consists of firing or removing those deemed political-

ly inconvenient or threatening to the continued incumbency of the leadership.

One main motive for this is economic. While Turney and supporters did not hesitate to create patronage perks for themselves (paying phone bills, hiring Fielder's wife as LP bookkeeper, awarding contracts and below market rent to Sharon Freeman) the Walter-Berglandistas have elevated this to a high art.

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California Libertarians Score Victories

This story is adapted from reports which originally appeared in the April 1989 California Libertarian News, the state newsletter of the California Libertarian Party.

San Jose, CA - Golden State libertarians took three actions around the state which rolled back proposed pay raises and benefits to elected government officials and forced San Diego County to stop a proposed half-cent sales tax increase.

San Mateo Pay Hike Squelched

LPC activist June Genis and the group she founded (ACCESS - Action for County Control on Establishing Supervisors' Salaries) collected over 40,000 signatures during early 1989 in record time to force a referendum over the San Mateo County Supervisors' 24 percent pay hike, which they gave themselves last December. Genis needed 19,715 valid signatures by Feb. 17 in order to force the Supervisors to take one of two steps: rescind the pay increase or put it on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Faced with double the required number of signatures, on Feb. 21 the Board voted to abandon the plan. "I've heard a lot a personal comment in support, but that's been whispered in my ear," Supervisor Tom Huening told the press, "Here we have 40,000 people who have shouted."

"It's been a very unpleasant few months," said Supervisor William Schumacher, "with Board members subjected to a lot of verbal harangues. Our timing was sure bad."

School Board Benefit Grab Nixed

Lakeside, CA taxpayers scored a small victory in March. In late January, the members of the Lakeside School Board District (in San Diego County) voted themselves life-time health coverage for board members with 12 years seniority. This coverage would have cost taxpayers over \$2,000 per member covered - \$100,000 in ten years.

Sparked by a letter in a San Diego newspaper, local libertarians mounted a phone and petition drive against this move. In conjunction with some irate parents and a local PTA group, the Lakeside School Board was informed that this was not the best way to spend tax money. In mid-March, the Board rescinded their grab for more benefits. They may now receive health coverage, but only if they pay for it out of their own pockets - and not from the taxpayers.

It took surprisingly little effort to persuade the Board to back down. There were fewer than 100 signatures collected and one letter from the local PTA president. A few people called the Lakeside School District Superintendent to express outrage.

Although it was a small victory, local school boards deserve monitoring for this kind of low-key money grabbing. It was reported, but not confirmed, that many school boards around the state receive this kind of quiet benefit - benefits that add up to millions of dollars over the years.

"Jail Tax" Found Illegally Approved

The three San Diego Libertarian Party ac-

tivists (Pat Wright, Dick Rider and Steven Currie) won their lawsuit against the County Board of Supervisors over the half-cent sales tax increase that was approved by voters in November, which was intended to pay for new jails and courtrooms. The Libertarians challenged the tax hike on the grounds that it violated Propositions 13 and 62, with voters approving it by only a simple majority vote. In order to get around the two-thirds vote required under Prop. 13, the County created a new entity, the San Diego Regional Justice Facility Financing Agency (RJFFA), which was nothing but the Board of Supervisors in disguise.

Due to conflict of interest, a change of venue was needed, so the case was heard in Riverside County. On March 23, Judge Burkhardt ruled that Prop. 13 had been "purposefully circumvented" and that the RJFFA was formed "solely for the purpose of avoiding the strictures of Proposition 13."

The winning side promptly called a press conference, and this time the media was there. "Now the Supervisors can do what they should have been doing the past eight years," Dick Rider told the press. "They can build the jails with the money they already have."

The County is appealing the decision, but the Libertarians will now be helped by other sympathetic groups. It's a been a shot in the arm for the anti-tax movement as well as for the Libertarian Party of San Diego County. ■

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NatCom Follies

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Both Walter and Ernsberger are partners in a for-profit partnership which was awarded the 1989 LP convention franchise. While the exact profit figure of the 1987 LP convention (sponsored by a non-profit group controlled by Washington state Libertarian) has never been publicly revealed, profits are reliably estimated at between \$20,000 - \$30,000. Bergland himself recently was given an exclusive no-bid \$3 per new member contract with the blessings of the Berglandista dominated Executive Committee to provide surplus copies of his 1984 campaign book **Libertarianism in One Lesson** as a premium to new members. This deal was made in January 1989 over the strong objections of then Membership Committee chair Matt Monroe, who suggested instead that Bergland donate the books to the LP. Bergland also recently won the franchise to produce "outreach" editions of *LP News*, the only new literature produced by the party in several years. This popular item was formerly produced by *LP News* editor Karl Hess, who was originally hired by Turney. Hess, has lost this contract in the wake of the Berglandista political coup.

Steve Givot is a partner in the upcoming 1991 LP convention group, and newly elevated committee chair Mary Gingell, who was promoted after the NatCom waived a requirement that committee chairs be NatCom members, was given a budget of \$3,000. LP treasurer Fielder remains an advisor to Marrou's "51-'92" PAC, which with the support of the Walter-Berglandista leadership has attempted to "privatize" the lucrative (in fundraising terms) LP ballot access franchise, in direct competition with the LP's own Ballot Access Committee (BAC). While "51-'92" has raised about \$40,000 as of late May, they have yet to start a single ballot drive or collect a single petition signature.

The Turneyite faction, centered around former two-time LP chair Jim Turney, is numerically larger on the NatCom but losing its once dominant political clout. In addition to Turney, key faction members consist of longtime Turney ally and former LP Finance Committee chair Paul Kunberger, former national office employee Sharon Freeman, newly appointed LNC member Robert Murphy of Oklahoma, former California LP chair Ted Brown, California regional representative Darlene Brinks, and California LP director Lyn Sapowsky-Smith, regarded as the most adamantly partisan member of the entire NatCom.

Ron Paul, and Walter's Magic Slide Show

There was a surprise appearance at the start of the meeting by 1988 LP presidential candidate Ron Paul, who was in DC to meet with possible participants in his proposed cable TV program.

Paul summed up his presidential campaign noting strengths and weakness. Paul noted that he traveled over 700,000 miles during the campaign on behalf of the LP. His main message was that the burden of ballot access greatly hindered his campaign in 1988, and he urged the party to undertake this responsibility in the future to allow presidential candidates to focus on solely their campaigns. He then explained his newest venture, the National Endowment for Liberty (NEFL) and his proposed cable TV program. Paul said he had talked with senators Steve Symms and William Proxmire, along with economist Milton Friedman about the program, and has hired Friedman's "Free to Choose" series producer Bob Chitester to produce it. Paul then opened the floor to questions. To his amazement, none of the NatCom members asked any questions. Paul thanked them and left to a standing ovation. Later in the

meeting Jim Turney said that Paul had told him that he had turned over evidence of former Paul business and campaign manager Nadia Hayes' alleged improper activities to local Texas authorities for possible legal action.

Walter then presented part one of his two-part Chair Report, the second half strategically scheduled as the last item of business, when all but east coast attendees would be gone.

Don Ernsberger, who Walter variously referred to during the meeting as his "chief investigator" or "deputy chair," then presented a series of overhead transparencies indicating Walter's view of his four-and-a-half month performance in office. Not surprisingly he found things were in a terrible mess when he took over, but much improved since then.

In one slide, Walter documented many of the problems which plagued the latter half of the Turney regime in late 1988 in areas ranging from telephone and direct mail fundraising, old debt repayment, absence of reports, poor communications, and numerous problems with membership processing and renewal efforts by national headquarters (see "LP Woes Under Turney" Jan. '89 AL).

Walter also graded various LP operations, giving "significantly increase membership levels" a grade of "C" (the lowest awarded), while giving everything else an "A" or "B" and awarding himself an overall "B." Later, LP membership charts prepared by Ernsberger and the 1988 Annual LP report presented by LP secretary Ahmad noted that LP membership was up by 28% in 1988. Only membership income, monthly pledge and one-time contributions exceeded the 1988 budget targets, while overall LP revenues were 4% under budget for the year.

Executive Committee Power Grab

In another unusual move, Walter proposed a resolution which said "that the Executive Committee shall exercise all powers of the NatCom except for the addition or deletion or amendment of LNC resolutions including budget resolutions."

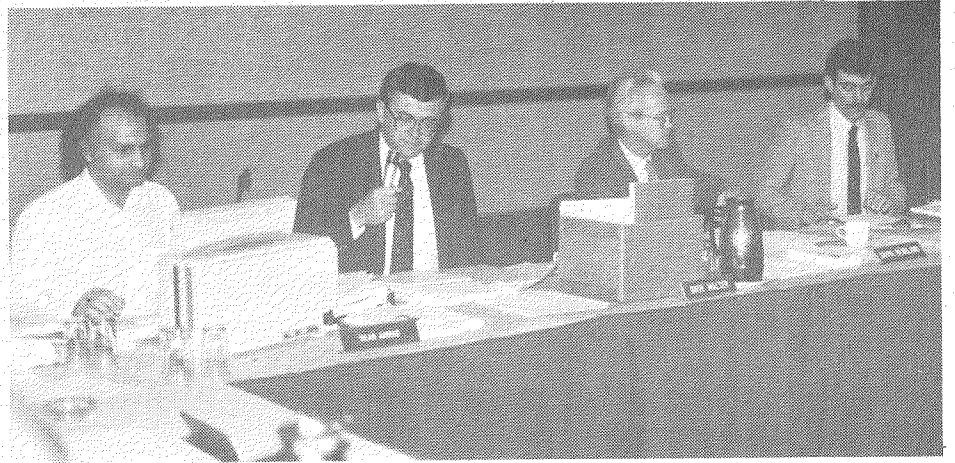
Both Joe Dehn and fellow Oregonian Tonie Nathan questioned the reasons for this move, since it effectively replaces the LNC by a 5 person ruling council with nearly unlimited power. Walter responded by saying it would "allow open discussions" of the Executive Committee.

At one point later in the meeting, for reasons not made entirely clear, Fielder and Sapowsky-Smith proposed that the NatCom session be placed in "executive session" and cleared of all non-NatCom members. This was obviously aimed at members of the press, which included *Decentralist* editor Carol Moore and *American Libertarian* editor Mike Holmes. Mark Hinkle of California argued that this was against LP By-Laws, to which Sapowsky-Smith argued that "it was only a NatCom rule, which we can change right now."

Although Fielder hinted the move was needed to discuss possible legal problems stemming from the Paul campaign, a consensus emerged that any such problems could be discussed privately and that no secret NatCom session was required.

Finances

LP treasurer Fielder presented the financial report. Membership revenues were running 182% over budget at the end of March, but virtually every other revenue category was down. Telephone fundraising was particularly down, due to the failure of the much touted "in-house" LP telemarketing effort which replaced longtime LP telephone fundraiser Alexis Thompson in February 1988. Largely because of personnel turnover and other management problems, the in-house effort never worked consistently and was still not functioning as of the end of April 1989.



LP officers and the national director: (from left) LP secretary Dean Ahmad, chair David Walter, vice chair David Bergland and national director Nick Dunbar.

The end of March results showed a \$5,750 surplus for the LP and considerable debt reduction. However, two-thirds of this surplus was due to the fact that Walter had thus far refused to pay for the LNC's budgeted share of the salary for BAC field coordinator Paul Jacob, despite heavily promoting Jacob in every national LP fundraising pitch sent out since Walter took over as chair.

Auditor Sacked, Blumert Attacked

The audit report given by deputy auditor Bill Redpath of Virginia was not controversial, but noted that practically every balance sheet account on the books by the end of 1988 was in need of adjustment; but the net bottom line of these errors was immaterial.

Then in an calculated move, Lyn Sapowsky-Smith moved to replace LP auditor Mike Holmes with deputy auditor Redpath. The reason cited was that Redpath lived closer to the LP office and would eliminate travel costs, even though Holmes had already turned the field auditing over to Redpath. Burt Blumert finally asked Sapowsky, "is this really just a political move?" Holmes, auditor since September 1983, was then removed on a quick voice vote.

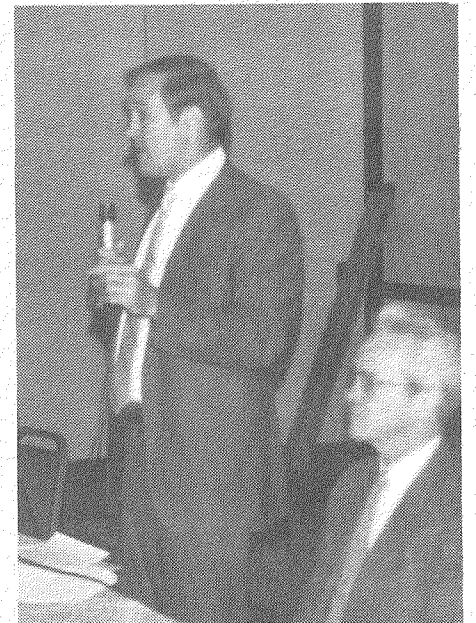
Paul Jacob then gave a detailed presentation complete with color flip charts, on how the Ballot Access Committee (BAC) planned to secure 845,000 ballot access signatures between 1989 and 1992 at an estimated cost of \$481,000, using a blend of volunteers, incentives to state LPs and outside petitioning firms for 50-state ballot status in 1992.

Blumert then presented a brief report on current BAC actions and reviewed the results of the 1988 BAC audit conducted by LP auditor Mike Holmes. The audit, which was distributed to the NatCom in early March, indicated that the BAC owed \$28,008 to the Ron Paul campaign for funds advanced to the BAC during the ballot drives, but that the BAC was due nearly \$30,000 from the campaign and the Ron Paul Investment Letter. These debts were settled in January 1989.

LP chair Walter startled Blumert and the NatCom by launching into a brief tirade against Blumert, accusing him of being "cowardly and irresponsible" for failing to bring all the BAC financial records to the NatCom meeting. Former auditor Holmes was allowed to respond, noting that the NatCom had voted at their last meeting to have all BAC records sent to the LNC legal counsel after the audit and that they had already been sent to LP Legal Committee chair William Hall.

Turneyite Darlene Brinks, pursuing Turney's political vendetta against former Paul campaign chair Blumert, proposed hiring an outside auditing firm to re-do the BAC audit. After a \$10,000 or so price tag was discussed, a substitute motion was passed instead.

This substitute motion required all BAC records (which Blumert hadn't had since December 1988) to be shipped to auditor Redpath within 10 days or Blumert would



1988 LP presidential candidate Ron Paul made a surprise visit to the Natcom meeting.

be fired as BAC chair. Finally, after several votes, a motion similar to the original Brinks proposal (the "10 days or else" demand) was passed by 17 to 8, with the Turneyites and Berglandistas voting in favor.

Blumert also had circulated an alternate "Resolution in Support of BAC" to replace one drafted by Walter and the Executive Committee in February. The ExComm BAC resolution basically "encouraged" LP members to support the BAC but accepted Marrou's argument that the use of the LP name by the "51-'92" PAC was due to "error" rather than intentional misappropriation. The Walter resolution also accepted the argument advocated by Emerling and Marrou that the "51-'92" pledge to spend \$60,000 on the North Carolina ballot drive would mitigate any damage suffered by the LP's own BAC.

Blumert, who viewed the ExComm resolution as a sell-out of the Ballot Access Committee for political reasons, had proposed his own substitute motion which rejected the "error" theory and required "51-'92" to comply with the demands set out by LP legal counsel William Hall in a January 19 letter to Marrou. As an alternative, Blumert proposed a binding arbitration with the American Arbitration Association, and failing that, legal action for damages.

"Recognizing my own lack of political support by this body," Blumert told the NatCom, "I withdraw my motion, though I still support it."

A subsequent motion carried to take all the "caging" operations of the BAC (i.e. depositing and accounting for money received) out of the BAC hands and make it the responsibility of the national LP office. This was done despite the national LP headquarters' recent history of losing bank deposits and inadequate accounting.

Finally, Don Ernsberger proposed a motion which actually forbade the BAC from

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THE WALTER REPORT CARD

HOW DID WE RATE ON THE FIVE AREAS MENTIONED IN THE 12/10 MEMO?

"1. Expand the financial contributions flowing to the Party to permit vital new activities."

B

"2. Provide the State Parties with materials and assistance to be successful."

A-

"3. Get an early start on ensuring maximum ballot access for 1990 and beyond."

B+

"4. Significantly increase membership levels."

C-

"5. Ensure the national office is running efficiently and providing its basic functions on a timely basis."

A-

B

(L) LP Chair Walter gave high marks for his operation since December in his report, except for Monroe's membership committee. (R) This chart shown during the Chair Report documented some of the many problems inherited from Jim Turney in December 1988.

12-1988 to 4-1989.... a report

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Membership Renewals	Mailed late/ No records kept High rate of drop out
Pledge Program	Base declining/ No data kept Newsletter not done in Oct/Nov
Inquiry Reply	No membership brochures Instant members not receiving LPN.
State Chair Mailings	No regular state lists No regular new prospects
Office Computer	No testing of program changes No network/ No menus
Interns	No Fall interns

PARTY FINANCES

Direct Mail	Only two mailings in '88 No plans for direct mail
Pledge Program	Reduced credibility Declining base/ No data
Tele-Fundraising	Collapsing system No office servicing Little money in pipeline

MEMBERSHIP

No national program
Renewals weak
No "Ron Paul" contact lists

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Committee system not operational
Lack of communication between
chair and officers/chrs
Executive Committee not functional

PROJECTS/ OUTREACH

"Volunteers Day Jan 88"

LP PARTY DEBT

Debt was being slowly reduced but
money still owed to Seattle;
Printers; Alexis; misc.

CHAIR/ OFFICE/ FINANCE REPORTS

Reports not issued on a regular
schedule.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓
				→
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				PROBLEM
				Problem
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓
↓	↓	↓	↓	Ø
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

NatCom Follies

From page 2

entering North Carolina to begin petitioning without the express permission of the North Carolina LP chair. This was another slap in Blumert's face and was designed to reinforce Project "51-92"'s claim that they, not the BAC, would completely finance and manage the difficult North Carolina petition drive and obtain ballot status there by September 1.

However, while the "51-92" PAC is believed to have raised more than \$40,000 since the beginning of the year, the Marrou PAC has yet to begin a single ballot drive or collect a single signature. Two \$5,000 checks sent to North Carolina LP affiliates in mid-April had not been cashed as of late May, and no North Carolina petitions have yet been printed up.

Monroe Ambushed, Fired by Walter

Membership Committee chair Matt Monroe asked that his report be moved up to 1:00 pm Sunday as he had to return to Houston early due to a family medical emergency.

Monroe acknowledged the positive LP membership growth, saying "I'm glad to hear membership is up 28% for 1988 and the Membership Committee is happy to take credit for that." He noted the success of the Instant Membership card program, originally by Russell Means, and the efforts of a number of state parties, which sponsored their own membership drives. He concluded his report once again advocating making a national LP membership dues split 50-50 with state LP groups.

His suggestion was totally overlooked in the 45 minute verbal assault which followed his 10 minute report. In a well orchestrated and pre-planned attack, Don Ernsberger, David Walter and David Bergland launched into a series of hostile questions and comments which led New York LP chair Bill McMillen, at the NatCom meeting as an observer, to remark later that "this was the most brutal public attack I've ever witnessed in politics."

Ernsberger dug into his ever-present portable file cabinet and attempted to grill Monroe over his August 1988 report which advocated membership ads, a new membership kit and a national LP membership mailing after the November elections. "Why weren't these plans carried out?" Ernsberger demanded.

Monroe replied that money budgeted for membership projects (\$5,000 in 1988) was not necessarily equivalent to money on hand available to spend. When he called the LP office he was always told "we're broke, we can't spare any funds." Walter explicitly vetoed a national membership mailing in early 1989 in favor of an fundraising letter signed by Murray Rothbard.

Bergland also attacked Monroe, bringing up an exchange of correspondence which occurred in January.

Monroe refused to give any ground, noting that he continued to personally pay for Instant Membership cards and personally distributed them to state and local parties and to the Ron Paul campaign, "which resulted in 2,000 new memberships, many of which became paying members." "I even personally paid to have new membership cards printed out from the LP computer, when Walter refused to fund this project," Monroe said, "though for some reason they still haven't been mailed out." No membership cards have been sent out by the national LP since November 1987, immediately prior to the national office move to Washington, DC.

At 5:20 pm, when only 18 NatCom members remained, during the Walter's Chair Report part 2, Walter announced that Monroe's earlier statement to the NatCom "if you (the NatCom) are dissatisfied with my performance, you are always free to replace me" was tantamount to a resignation, and therefore he was accepting Monroe's "resignation" immediately.

This bizarre pronouncement stunned observers, since it was obvious Monroe had never resigned nor did he intend to, but was merely restating the acknowledged authority of the National Committee to replace committee chairs if it so chose.

The following Monday, Monroe learned of his "resignation" and called Walter to set the record straight. "I did not resign and you know it," he told Walter. "And if you wanted to vote me out, why did you wait until I left to do something behind my back?"

Walter replied that regardless of what Monroe said, "he was out" and slammed the phone down on him.

Shortly thereafter, Walter gave up the "resignation" story and in a letter to Monroe dated April 24, said "this is to formally notify you that you are no longer chair of the LNC's Membership Committee." He went on to write, "If you did not, as you now say, intend that as an offer to resign, then so be it. In any case, I have the power to remove and replace you, and have done so."

"It's too bad Walter is playing politics at party expense," Monroe said, "they will never forgive me for opposing the Bergland book deal. But I don't think new members should have to pay a \$3 tax to David Bergland when they join the party, and won't be a party to this deal."

In addition to the Monroe ouster, Walter also received the resignation of Utah LP activist Bob Waldrop as chair of the independent Advertising Development Committee, which produced the two 30 second LP generic commercials in 1988. Waldrop's self-funded action committee was almost abolished entirely at the meeting, but the NatCom finally settled for Waldrop's resignation.

Walter also announced the resignation of Paul Kunberger as head of the Telephone Fundraising Sub-Committee, although some suspect it was demanded by Walter over poor telephone fundraising results.

Other Business

In addition to increasing the 1989 budget by \$15,000 based on higher projected revenues, and allocating more funds to committees, the NatCom appointed members to the national convention Credentials, Platform, and Rules and By-Laws Committees.

A 10-point LP Program, dealing with political issues of the day, was also adopted for recommendation to the national convention

by the NatCom after several hours of detailed discussion.

Elected to the Platform Committee were Bill Evers, Willy Marshall, Larry Dodge, Mike Iddings, Jorge Amador, Ted Brown, Amy Marshall, Kathleen Richman, Ivy Warmbier, and Bill Bradford. Steve Givot was elected temporary Platform Committee chair.

For Credentials Committee, the NatCom appointed Gary Johnson, Sharon Freeman, Francis Eddy, Karen Huffman, and Dean Ahmad as temporary chair.

Selected for the Rules and By-Laws Committee were NatCom members Gerry Walsh, Vickie Kirkland, Lyn Sapowsky-Smith, Don Ernsberger, and Paul Kunberger. Also appointed were Toni Black, George O'Brien, Bill White and David Horne, with Ernsberger named as temporary chair.

The final meeting of the current NatCom is scheduled immediately prior to the Philadelphia convention, on August 30.

Aftermath

Burt Blumert announced his "indefinite leave of absence" as Ballot Access Committee chair. This was a surprising announcement since Blumert escaped the intended purge of him at the meeting. As chair of the two LP operations in 1988 which raised nearly \$3 million in total (the Paul campaign and the BAC), his resignation leaves a large hole in BAC operations.

Blumert's May 9 letter to Walter detailed his reasons:

Dear Dave:

Next to our Party and the cause of liberty itself, I am most dedicated to Ballot Access. We cannot overestimate its importance to the future of our movement. This is why I have gladly dedicated my time and money over the last two years.

Unlike Matt Monroe, I came to the Washington, D.C. meeting prepared for the assault upon my integrity and ability. Sapowsky, Murphy and Fielder, et. al. did not disappoint. The only semi-surprise was Don's shocking resolution kicking BAC out of North Carolina. (Imagine, a letter

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Libertarian Outlook

Perestroika Cure for NatComism

Readers of *American Libertarian* should have no trouble identifying the symptoms of the endemic NatComism disease which plagues the national Libertarian Party. This disease is of more than passing interest because it debilitates and saps the energy of the largest membership organization of libertarians in the entire world. NatComism is a variant of a well recognized organizational malady which plagues political groups run by committee. It typically manifests itself after the early growth years, when internal politicking becomes more attractive than facing real world problems.

One of the obvious signs of raging NatComism is the rapid multiplication of useless paperwork created by the NatCom. The stack of memos, reports and other paperwork created by and sent to NatCom members since their term began in September 1987 now stands nearly 4 feet tall.

The memo merchants and Roberts Rules of Order mavens rule the day, with 20 page reports and dozens of amendments and points of order filling the three page agendas of each meeting. Strict time limits and rules governing these complex agendas have been passed to bring order out of chaos, but being merely symptomatic palliatives, these measures have had little effect on actual NatCom performance and are routinely ignored. One of the cardinal rules of the NatCom is that the important business at hand is never telegraphed in advance to opponents in the dozens of reports circulated beforehand.

It is a paperholic's dream, with 10- and 12-inch stacks of paper handed out to bleary-eyed NatComers at the inception of each meeting, signifying great symbolic importance but virtually unread and unused during actual business. Increasingly, the top LP leadership in a world governed by these self-created bureaucratic missives. Few problems or real issues actually get discussed at the two day NatCom meetings, which are held in various places around the country at great personal expense to the 30 members of the NatCom. In fact, the expense to NatCom members of attending these largely theatrical meetings three times a year has been reliably pegged at over 11% of the total annual LP budget; money which could undoubtedly be spent on more productive freedom enhancing endeavors.

But the obvious shortcomings of the Libertarian National Committee caused by NatComism are evident to everyone but the LP leadership. In fact, current trends signal an escalation of bureaucratic tendencies rather than an abatement. One freshman NatComer has taken to carrying a portable file cabinet with him to meetings to aid in sorting and cataloguing the ever growing piles of paper. Several members now bring portable computers to the meeting in order to feed in notes and track the often Byzantine parliamentary goings on. The next logical escalation will be portable fax machines, copying machines and laser printers at each member's side, to instantly produce and reproduce even more paperwork as words are being uttered during the sessions...

One calculation shows that the current NatCom has one "board member" for each

233 party members, and one NatComer for each \$10,467 allotted in the annual LP budget. By contrast, there is one U.S. Congressman or Senator for each \$2 billion in the federal budget. This is over-management in the extreme, evidencing the fact that the chiefs-to-Indians ratio has gotten seriously out of balance.

Fortunately, there are some proposed structural solutions being seriously offered to cure NatComism. A Libertarian Party *perestroika*, as it were. Foremost among the proposed reforms is a drastic reduction in the size of the National Committee, which would have the effect of turning it into a functional committee instead of a political legislature. Even if nothing else changed, fewer members would eliminate much of the factionalism.

Abolishing NatCom regional representatives, which were introduced in 1972 at the party's founding when few states had functioning state party organizations, would be the easiest solution to the size problem. Requiring the remaining at-large delegates to campaign for specific job or committee assignments would also sharpen focus and assign individual responsibility.

Prospects for *perestroika* appear excellent, not in part because rank-and-file party members are fed up with NatCom antics and ineffectual leadership. A recent poll conducted among the LP's regular monthly financial pledgers by the party itself indicated that 88% of respondents wanted a smaller NatCom. Over 38% favored a NatCom of 10 or fewer members.

However, popular and necessary, any proposed change will undoubtedly face resistance from those who like to play the current NatCom political game. Some NatComers obviously prefer writing memos to real work, and relish their roles as pseudo-legislative actors on a national stage, no matter how laughable.

And change won't be easy. Even the LP has its share of party hacks and bureaucrats, it's own equivalent of Gorbachev's Soviet "dead souls," who like things just the way they are and resist any changes out of fear of losing their perks and privileges.

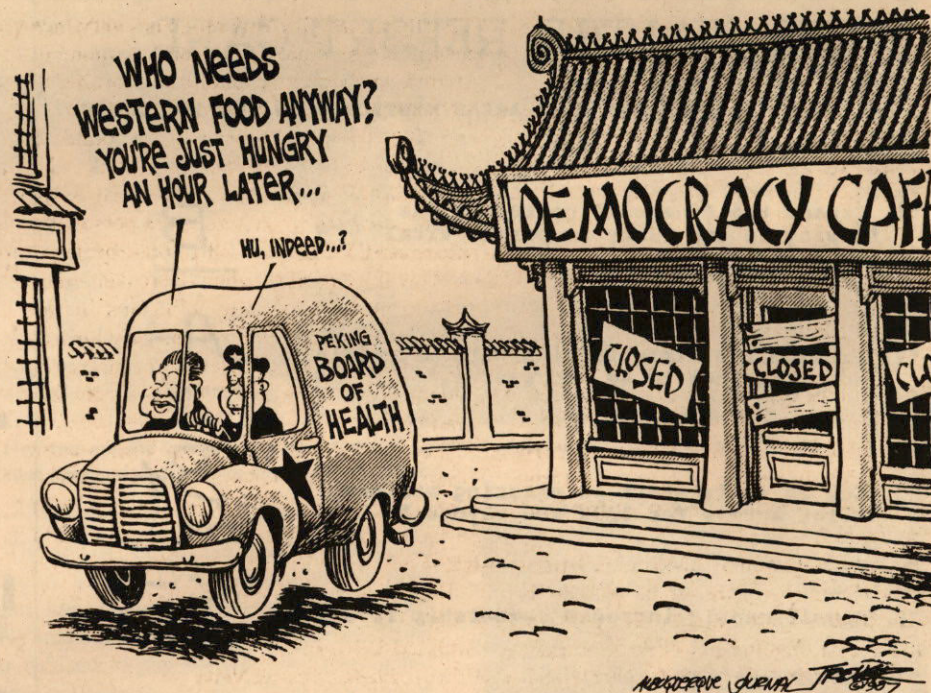
But regardless of bureaucratic conservatism, the disease of NatComism has become all too obvious to Libertarian Party members. Convention delegates will have the opportunity in Philadelphia to take the matter into their own hands, regardless of roadblocks or "politics as usual" attitudes by entrenched party leaders.

The Libertarian Party is an organization which boldly and rightly calls for major transformations of American society regard-

Transitions

Hu Yaobang, 73, died April 15 in Beijing after suffering a heart attack during a Politburo meeting. Yaobang, a former head of the Chinese Communist Party from 1981 until his demotion in 1987 for encouraging "bourgeois liberalism," was widely perceived in China as a leading force for democratization and economic liberalism.

He is perhaps the only Communist Party leader in history whose death triggered mass protests and marches against a Communist government, sparking some of the largest public demonstrations in China since the 1948 revolution. ■



ing the role of government in the lives of its citizens. There is nothing conservative or timid in the LP's call for drastic reduction of government and bureaucracy in our lives. It's time to impart that same attitude of courageous advocacy in the management of the world's most important libertarian organization. It can hardly be argued that the LP can't afford to tinker with its own rules, given its recent lackluster performance and internal stagnation.

NatComism can be cured. *Perestroika* means restructuring and eliminating useless political overhead. The party of liberty should demand no less. ■

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.

"Keep Your Sour Grapes to Yourself"

Clarabelle Ward's letter "Masochism was Rampant" (April 1989 issue) was an uncalled for attack on the Libertarian Party of California's recent state convention. As state chairman at the time, I believe I speak for most attendees that this was an excellent convention.

The attack on Cullene Lang is despicable, especially coming from someone who obviously doesn't know how much effort it takes to put on a convention. The reason the convention was held at a hotel without a casino was to have fewer distractions for the delegates. The Las Vegas Strip was only a free limo ride away.

David Nolan did not urge the part to liquidate. In fact, I had heard rumors that he was going to do so and thus was going to exercise my veto power over his keynote speech. Instead, however, Nolan urged the LP to success by use of television advertising, a very sound view in light of America's obsession with the "boob tube."

Ms. Ward objects to the use of private entrepreneurs controlling conventions, but this has been the method for as long as I can remember. Some make money and some lose money. The Las Vegas convention lost at least \$8000, all of which had to come from Cullene Lang's pocket. Convention-goers sympathized with her predicament and con-

tributed several hundred dollars in cash to defray her debt. Also, the state executive committee of the LPC declined the \$1000 Ms. Lang was obligated to pay for the privilege of putting on the convention. These actions were to reward Ms. Lang for a job well done.

Of course there were some glitches, as there are in every operation, but this is inevitable and no reason to attack the hard-working activists who worked tirelessly on this gala event.

Ms. Ward, I hope you will keep your sour grapes to yourself in the future, instead of attacking hard work and free enterprise. If you have suggestions for speakers and programs, or suggestions for budgeting and accounting, for future conventions, please

Continued page 5

American Libertarian

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Feedback

From page 4

advise the organizers. I'm sure they will look forward to hearing from you.

Ted Brown
Immediate Past Chair,
Libertarian Party of California
Pasadena, CA

Nolan Not Liquidating

While I appreciate your writeup on LIBER/TV in the April issue, I am disturbed by your remark that I have called for the "total dismantling" of the Libertarian Party. This notion also appears in a letter from Clarabelle Ward which was published in the same issue.

That's simply untrue. In an article I wrote for *Reason*, which appeared in March, I made the following statement: "The party is the only major ongoing network of consistent freedom advocates, and libertarians would be foolish to dismantle it." Later in the same article, I said that "just possibly, libertarians should consider changing the LP into something other than a political party." These two quotes, spliced together, were highlighted by *Reason* in large, bold type ... so it would be hard to miss my point.

At the California/Nevada convention, I did not at any point "urge the part to liquidate." And I have no intention of starting a "crackpot PAC." I have no idea of what motivates Ms. Ward, but that's just cheap innuendo.

My position now, as always, is simply that libertarians should continuously evaluate their options. And it would help if we stopped taking potshots at one another!

David F. Nolan
Irvine, CA

"Rothbard's Self Serving Fiction"

Murray Rothbard's latest self-serving fiction ("Austrian Economics: Boom, Sell-Out & Revival," Feb. '89 *AL*) claims that *Critical Review* is part of some grand conspiracy to traduce Austrian economics, specifically by "embracing such nihilist 'hermeneuticians' as the Nazi philosopher Martin Heidegger and his disciple Hans-Georg Gadamer ..."

For the record, our 58 essays, review essays and research papers have included a grand total of *three* relating to hermeneutics — which is, like it or not, one of the most important contemporary philosophical movements. Two of these articles were favorable to hermeneutics; one of them discussed Heidegger; and none of them even touched on any possible relationship of hermeneutics and Austrian economics (which will be debated in a forthcoming issue).

Rothbard's wildly inaccurate charges only serve to stifle intellectual inquiry informed by such great scholars as Mises, Hayek and Menger. I fail to see how such thought control aids the development of Austrian economics.

Jeffrey Friedman, Editor
Critical Review
Chicago, IL

Winger on Populists & Progressives

I read Greg Kaza's article on the Populist Party with interest ("The Populist Party: Whites Only Need Apply," March 1989 *AL*).

Jim Yarbrough was the Populist Party's ballot access director in both 1984 and 1988. He also had a great deal to do with getting the Georgia ballot access laws reformed. He persuaded the Populist Party to donate \$2,000 to the lawsuit *Bergland v Harris*, filed in 1984, which was really responsible for getting the legislature to improve the law. He also found the sponsor in the Georgia legislature to introduce the good bill, which passed in 1986. Senator Culver Kidd, the sponsor, is a friend of Jim's.

Furthermore, Jim Yarbrough is a very nice person. He gave me a ride from my motel in Atlanta, to the state capitol, the morning of the hearing in the legislature in 1986.

People like Jim Yarbrough are found in every third party, of course, and it's the friendship between such people that helps ballot access reform. Therefore, I personally hate to see third party publications "beat up" on other third parties, when the real enemies are the many important politicians in the Democratic and Republican Parties who prosper under the existing repressive, undemocratic state of ballot access in this country.

There was also an error in the same article, where it said that George Wallace's 13% in 1968 was the best vote percentage for a third party presidential candidate since Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. Kaza forget about Bob LaFollette, who got 17% in 1924 as a Progressive.

Richard Winger
Editor, *Ballot Access News*
San Francisco, CA ■

In Review



by Steven J. Alexander

Steven Alexander is a Santa Clara, California based aficionado of science fiction, computers and the Libertarian Party.

The Mirror Maze, James P. Hogan, Bantam Spectra, 1989, 439 pages, pbk. \$4.95.

The Mirror Maze is James Hogan's latest novel. Hogan began his writing career in science fiction, but this and his last novel (*Endgame Enigma*) are Cold War suspense stories set in the near future, based on High Frontier (space stations and SDI) technology.

The cover of this Bantam paperback shows a missile heading towards the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. But Washington faces something more unsettling than a nuclear device. It is November, 2000, and a Libertarian has been elected U.S. president!

James Hogan calls his victorious third party the "Constitutionals," but is unmistakable — they are us. The Constitutional Party stands for a completely free market, no taxation, full civil liberties, and a noninterventionist foreign policy.

Hogan's book is delightful. Not only did he write a story with Libertarians in it, but our adversaries are there too, and he gives them a richly deserved thrashing. His characters are scientists, entrepreneurs, and idealist lawyers. They are constantly battling slothful bureaucrats, fanatical regulators, and pseudo-science demagogues. And in the end, the libertarians win on every front.

We watch Hogan's heroes (sorry) in college and afterwards as they discover the Constitutional Party. Their dialogues and experiences introduce the reader to libertarianism in a natural and engaging way. I recommend this book for political outreach as much as for entertainment.

The main plot covers the events from the 1999 election until the inauguration in January. The Constitutionals have won the election, and the statists are desperate. The prospects of deregulation and scientific progress (fusion, etc.) threaten the ruling elite, and they plan to do something drastic about it. Keep your eyes on that missile.

Hogan's intrigues have unending twists and turns that keep his readers guessing. He successfully weaved together subplots that I thought could never be connected. His characters are well drawn and likeable.

But most enjoyable is his portrait of the Constitutionals and their fight for liberty.

The title of the book comes from Hogan's revelation that the bad guys are on the left and the right; arch-conservative and communist. Those ideologies mirror each other because they both promote government domination of the individual.

If enough people read **The Mirror Maze**, perhaps the "Constitutionals" will win election in the year 2000. ■

Political Notes



Maybe Crane Should Give Donald Trump a Call

Washington, DC - The Cato Institute, the libertarian-oriented think tank funded largely by the wealthy Koch family (David and Charles in particular), is trying to raise money to build a new \$10 million multi-story office building about 12 blocks from Capitol Hill.

Currently housed in a renovated town home near the capitol complex, Cato officials are beating the bushes raising money to finance the new, larger complex which would house the growing institute and some outside tenants. Although the Koch's could readily afford to build the whole thing themselves, they are notoriously adverse to footing the entire bill for their political and intellectual endeavors. Word has it that some other major Cato donors are less than enthusiastic at the bricks-and-mortar project.

Bush Regime Endorses Renewed Statism

Washington, DC - The absence of any positive pro-freedom movement by the Bush administration in its early going is no surprise to anyone but the most deluded and naive

libertarians. But a string of recent policy proposals indicating eager endorsement of repressive statist measures by the federal government has taken even Bush critics by surprise.

To name just a few:

- Bush's endorsement in March of a private commission report calling for significantly higher pay for top government bureaucrats, judges and members of Congress, plus his vow to promptly ask for new legislation granting increased government salaries. This comes despite the unprecedented backdown by Congress over their attempted February pay raise coup.

- Bush shocked his conservative supporters in March when he quickly abandoned his campaign promise to support tuition tax credits for parents who send their children to non-government schools. Bush claimed that the government "can't afford" the measure despite the fact that the proposal was in the 1988 GOP party platform. Apparently the government **can** afford pay increases for federal fat cats, however. Bush also said, "I think everybody should support the public school system" in spite of overwhelming evidence that for the most part, public schools are going downhill rapidly.

- Bush's appointed "drug czar" William Bennett, with Bush's endorsement, recently called for opening dozens of federal military prisons and barracks slated for closure to house the thousands of soon-to-be busted illegal drug users in Bush's "kinder and gentler" war on drugs. Bush may also ask for Soviet help in the prison overcrowding matter. Some speculate that he may ask Gorbachev to house U.S. drug prisoners in now vacant Siberian gulag prison camps.

- In another example of Bush's commitment to the First Amendment, administration lawyers have argued before the U.S. Supreme Court that so-called "dial-a-porn" pay telephone services be banned from operation. ■

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Future of Freedom Con Report

by American Libertarian
Special Correspondent

San Francisco, CA - For the first time in its history the Future of Freedom Conference (F of F Con) was held outside southern California. This year's conference was held in San Francisco on March 25 and 26. After declining attendance in the Los Angeles area the conference moved north at the request of Jim Peron, owner of Free Forum Books, and libertarian activist John Tiritilli, both of whom sponsored and planned the conference. F of F Con was held at the Fort Mason Conference Center overlooking San Francisco Bay with a spectacular view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

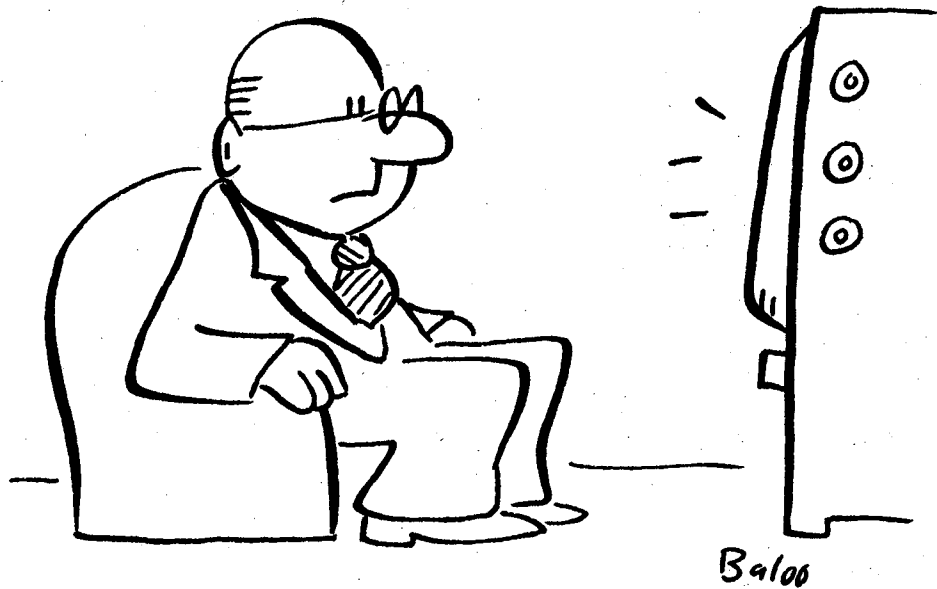
This year's conference differed from previous ones in its emphasis on new speakers who haven't frequented libertarian conferences. Most of the participants were pleased with the variety and credentials of the speakers. The first scheduled speaker was Paul Weaver, author of *The Suicidal Corporation*, but he never showed up at the conference and organizers were not informed of the reason for his absence. A last minute replacement was Godfrey Lehman, an expert on the subject of jury nullification. Lehman explained how a jury has the right not only to find the defendant guilty or innocent, but also to judge the justice of the law itself. This talk was well received and created a great deal of interest in the subject.

Martin Anderson, chief domestic policy adviser to President Reagan from 1980 to 1982, spoke on "Inside the Reagan Revolu-

tion." Anderson's talk created a great deal of discussion and controversy. Most participants felt that Anderson glossed over the anti-freedom aspects of the Reagan program and only concentrated on the few pro-market positions taken by his administration. Because of Anderson's emphasis, it appeared that the reality of the Reagan administration was being distorted to give it a better image than it deserved. Some audience members attempted to challenge Anderson during the question and answer period.

Attorney Larry Stanley of New York City next presented a discussion of the issue of pornography and police entrapment. Stanley presented a horrifying lecture on how the federal government under Reagan became the only commercial distributor of "child pornography" in the United States. Stanley detailed the devious methods used to entrap people into making purchases, often without their knowing the exact nature of the product, from the phony fronts set up by the federal government. While federal statistics have shown that virtually no commercial child pornography is being produced, arrests for purchasing the material has skyrocketed because of the entrapment program.

One of the most revolting aspects of the government's scheme was the use of postal inspectors who would write people, often for years, attempting to entrap them. Some of the letters were extremely pornographic. Some victims of the entrapment would be



"Good evening. This is Dan Rather, substituting for your own thought processes . . ."

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a fellow at the Hoover Institution, discussed how and why socialism is destroying Africa. Ayittey presented a stinging critique of the Left and its lack of concern for individual freedom in African countries, other than in South Africa. Ayittey showed how many of the problems which are condemned in South Africa are actually present in other African countries, but are ignored by the American Left. The audience was enthusiastic about the talk and very favorably impressed.

Jim Lewis, 1984 Vice Presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party, discussed his recent incarceration in a federal prison for failure to file income taxes. Lewis was forbidden by the federal government to advocate that conference participants follow his example. A surprise visitor was Norma Jean Almodovar, who recently was released from a California state prison after serving on charges of pandering. Almodovar was anxious to see Lewis and compare notes on their recent experiences. Lewis talked about how most of the people in prison with him were there for victimless crimes and how he used his time to promote libertarian concepts to his fellow prisoners.

The main event for Saturday evening was a showing of Ayn Rand's "We the Living" film at the Castro Theatre. The theatre, located in the center of the Castro district, and well known for its art deco interior, was packed with almost 150 libertarians.

On March 26th the first speaker of the morning was Greg Christainsen, Associate Professor of Economics at California State University. Christainsen spoke on the concept of competition in the legal system and gave a history of how competing legal systems have worked in the past. Many in the audience found the concepts discussed to be highly interesting and swamped Christainsen afterwards with questions in discussion that carried on through much of the morning.

Don Kates, a liberal attorney in San Francisco, formerly very active in the civil rights movement, presented his critique of the anti-gun attitudes of the American Left. Kates,

author of *Restricting Handguns: The Liberal Skeptics Speak Out* explained why typical liberal views on gun control are irrational and contradict basic liberal values. Kates asked the audience to figure out why it is wrong for a person to defend themselves with a gun, as liberals contend, then why is it all right to call someone else (the police) to do it for you. Kates proved himself to be an excellent speaker with a well-thought out presentation.

Lew Rockwell, Jr., president of the Mises Institute, and a member of the National Committee of the Libertarian Party, presented a talk on "Government: Lies, Lies, and More Lies." Rockwell was the principled libertarian answer to Anderson, in that he showed how the Reagan Administration betrayed freedom time after time.

John DeCecco, Professor of Psychology and Human Sexuality at San Francisco State University and Director of the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality, gave a lecture on "The Assault on Sexual Liberty." DeCecco started out talking about how he's been interested in the writings of libertarian economist Friedrich von Hayek, but quickly switched into a typical Left-wing analysis of sexuality and sexual regulations. The basic premise of DeCecco's talk was that the State fosters programs to encourage heterosexuality and the confining of sexuality to marriage so as to encourage the production of babies. The reason given for this is that an increased population guarantees cheap labor to the capitalists.

The final conference speaker was Robert Sheaffer, author of *Resent Against Achievement*. Sheaffer presented his thesis that every economic or scientific achievement that is significant enough to attract attention causes powerful resentments against that achievement among the unproductive. When institutionalized, resentment becomes stronger than the drive towards achievement and civilization collapses. Sheaffer's analysis created a great deal of interest and debate.

It was announced that plans are being made to hold the Future of Freedom Conference again in San Francisco in the fall of 1990. Vince Miller, President of Libertarian International, has announced that the 1990 World Conference of L.I. will be held in conjunction with the 1990 F of F Con in San Francisco. The focus of next year's conference will be on environmental issues and libertarian solutions.

Audio tapes of the speakers at the conference are available for \$8 each plus \$1.50 for postage and handling from: **Free Forum Books, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.**

NatCom Follies

From page 3

from a state chair of a virtually non-existent party telling the NatCom what they can and cannot do?)

Your attack on me was a surprise only in the sense that it was personal in nature. Hysteria was the operative mood in D.C. and it continues still.

I put up with all the indignities Dave, because of my commitment to Ballot Access. The treatment of Matt Monroe engineered by Ernsberger and yourself, however, was beyond the pale. Even if Matt were as ineffective a Membership Committee Chairman as you charge, and his track record gives the lie to this claim, that would not have been cause to vilify him. Matt is one of the most generous contributors in the party's history, in every sense. He has opened his home, his schedule and his bank account time and time again, without stint. Yet you and your little clique treated him as if he were an enemy to the movement, insulting him, demeaning him and then ousting him after he left the meeting.

Your letter to him of April 24 and your subsequent appointment of Turney as new Membership Committee Chairman sums it all up for me. You are more concerned with bureaucratic reports and cronyism than actual performance. After much thought and reflection I do not feel that I can continue to act in the best interest of the BAC in this environment.

For liberty,
Burt Blumert

So the factionalism continues, The Turneyites got their revenge and the Walter-Berglandistas tightened their grip on the party bureaucracy and upcoming national convention. But the Libertarian Party is expected to survive this latest round at least until next September. ■

Three Kansas Libertarians Elected

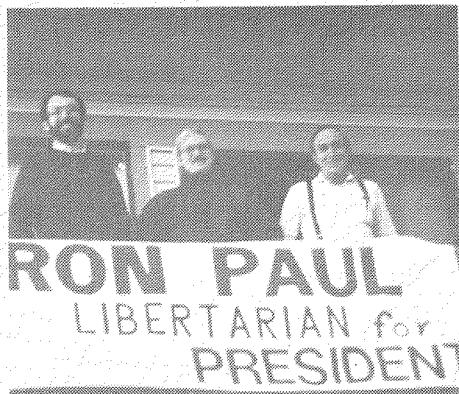
by American Libertarian Special Correspondent

Wichita, KS - Local elections were held April 4 across Kansas. Three libertarians were elected to non partisan local offices. Mount Hope, Kansas, a community of 700, re-elected Michael Lynn to the City Council. Lynn's libertarian credentials were well known in Mt. Hope since he had a Ron Paul for President yard sign in his front yard, and placed a Ron Paul billboard along the boundary of his farm which faces a heavily traveled highway in north-west Sedgwick County. He finished second among six candidates in a race for three seats on the City Council.

The other two libertarians elected were John D. Foster and Karl Peterjohn to positions on Wichita's Citizens Participation Organization (CPO). Wichita is split into ten CPO districts. Each district has nine members, and their role is to provide community input on various issues, and often serve as a "farm system" for appointments to city boards such as zoning, housing, streets, and economic development.

College student John D. Foster came in first, out polling the second place by 100 votes. Foster received 2,780 votes, beating out six other candidates, including three incumbents in a race for five positions. He spent \$130 on door hangers and spread 700 of them in three of his district's precincts. Foster was elected to a four-year term.

Karl Peterjohn's margin was narrower. He came in fifth in a seven way race for five seats. He won by 13 votes over the sixth



Karl Peterjohn, John Foster and new Kansas state chair Bill Ernest at the Ron Paul Wichita headquarters in 1988.

place candidate. He received 1,163 votes, but spent only \$15 on a one-page flyer which was distributed just before the election in one part of his district. As the candidate elected with the fewest votes, Peterjohn received a two-year term.

"The CPO races weren't hotly contested," Peterjohn said. "Most of the candidates did not campaign. However, it is a lot easier running a successful campaign in a local, non-partisan race than it is to confront an incumbent Congressman as I did in 1982, or to run a statewide race. I enjoy winning, and I dislike losing." Peterjohn was also an unsuccessful candidate for the Wichita School Board in 1979. ■

Manhart, Thies Announce for LP Offices

Jacksonville, FL/Pasadena, MD - Two veteran LP activists and former state LP chairs have announced their candidacies for office at the upcoming national LP convention in September.

Charles Manhart

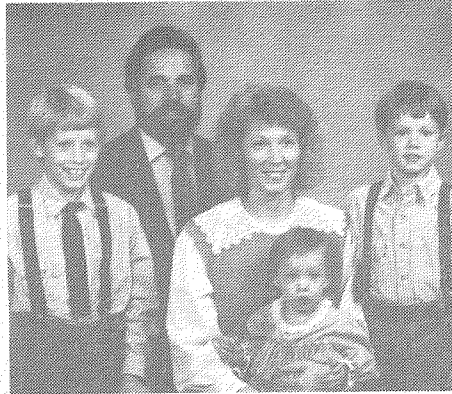
Former Florida LP state chair Charles Manhart announced his intention to seek the vice chair position of the Libertarian Party earlier this year and has been running a low key campaign, visiting several state conventions and sitting in on the last two LP National Committee meetings to get a feel for the operations of the national party. Manhart, 43, is a quality control inspector for a major northeastern Florida construction company and served as Florida LP chair from mid-1986 thru mid-1988. He previously was northeast Florida LP treasurer from 1984-86 and attended the 1987 Seattle LP national convention as a delegate and member of the Platform Committee.

Manhart was an early supporter of the Russell Means presidential nomination, and later enthusiastically supported Ron Paul and the Florida ballot drive. He is known for his no-nonsense leadership of the sometimes fractious Florida party, and notes that state LP membership doubled each year during this tenure as state chair.

Asked about his reasons for running, Manhart said, "it's my desire to see the same positive results at the national level that we've seen in Florida." Among his positions are cutting the size of the NatCom to an effective working size and "send the rest home to build the party at the state and local level."

"I also think it's important to have everyone in a leadership position say 'please' when asking people to do something for the party and to say 'thank you' when it is done," Manhart told AL. "We need to set a good example."

He said his main strong point is his many



Mike and Jan Lynn with family. Mike is a recently elected Kansas LP member.

years of professional experience at getting people to work together as a team for real world results, citing his experience in the results-oriented construction industry as an example. Manhart is also endorsing Matt Monroe of Houston in his national LP chair bid, noting that "I could work very well with someone like Dr. Monroe" in the top position.

Clifford Thies

Former national LP treasurer and Montana LP state chair Clifford Thies has announced for the national LP treasurer post. Thies won this office at the last national LP convention but resigned after he felt he was unfairly attacked by the then LP national chair Jim Turney in his column in LP News. Thies resigned at the August 1988 NatCom meeting when Turney refused to apologize for what Thies termed "personal attacks" in the party paper.

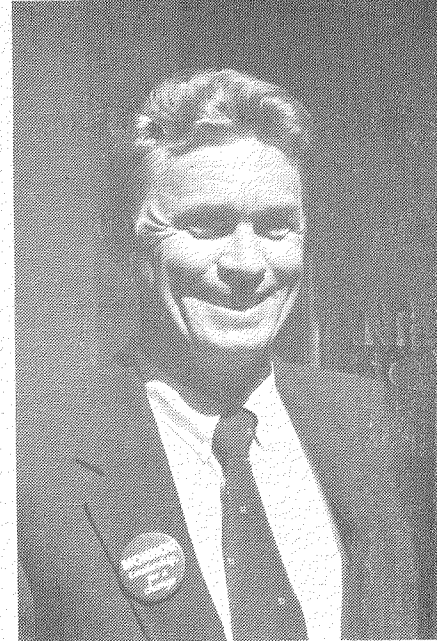
"I don't want to work in an environment - political or otherwise - where members of the team play politics at each others expense. However, I believe there are good candidates in the running for top LP offices and I believe I can contribute and work effectively towards building the national LP with new, dynamic leadership," Thies told AL.

Thies, 36, is Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Baltimore and recently authored a college level textbook on macro-economics. He has run for Lt. Governor of Montana in 1984 and has served as chair of both the Montana and Maryland LP. He also ran a last minute race for national LP chair in 1985, finishing third behind Turney and Randy Ver Hagen. He holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics, an MBA in Finance and a Ph.D. in Economics from Boston College.

Among his accomplishments are "implementing and maintaining the first computerized accounting system in LP history during my tenure, and leaving the LP with up-to-date financial records and in sound financial shape when I resigned for reasons of principle last summer."

Thies notes that his specialty in economics is finance, which he also teaches, and that his experience can contribute to entrepreneurial growth for the national party. "I believe in sound, fiscal responsibility in the financial affairs of the LP," Thies said, "but I also believe we need to concentrate on becoming a half million dollar per year organization, and ultimately twice that, if we are to properly represent libertarianism in American politics. The time is past for shrinking budgets and retrenchment. The 1988 campaigns proved that the LP can muster the resources to grow significantly, elect LP office holders, and represent libertarian ideas to the American public."

Thies has also enthusiastically endorsed Matt Monroe's bid for the national chair and considers his bid part of a Monroe slate for the top LP offices. He also plans an advertising campaign and other outreach efforts to convention delegates in the coming



LP vice chair candidate and former Florida state chair Charles Manhart.

months.

Addresses, Etc.

Monroe, the only currently announced LP chair candidate, said this about the two new entrants into the LP leadership race: "Both Charles Manhart and Clifford Thies represent the kind of proven, experienced, grassroots leadership we need at the top level of the party. I can work well with both and I welcome their presence into these races."

Manhart can be reached at: **Charles Manhart for Vice Chair, Route 3, Box 720, Callahan, FL 32011.**

Thies can be reached at: **Thies for Treasurer, 7738 West Shore Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122. ■**

Maryland Convention Report

Clarksville, MD - The Maryland Libertarian Party elected eight delegates to the September LP national convention on Saturday, April 29. Elected were: Jay Baker, Deloris Blum, Robert Creager, Frances Eddy, Tom Fishbeck, Doris Gordon, Carol and Clifford Thies. Marylanders Dean Ahmad and Paul Kunberger, as members of the National Committee, are automatically delegates.

In other business, State Chair Tom Estrada-Palmer reported on the participation of Maryland LP'ers in three recent media events: the massive Washington, D.C., abortion rights march, an April 17th anti-tax demonstration, and a protest rally against the re-opening of the troubled Peach Bottom nuclear reactor. At these events, a handful of Libertarians within a much larger crowd were able to gain publicity including major market television by carrying signs featuring the words "Maryland Libertarian Party."

State Vice Chair Dean Ahmad updated the status of the Maryland LP court case contesting that state's ballot access requirements. During 1988 the case lost at both the U.S. District Court and Appeals Court levels. A request for reconsideration in light of the recent *Eu* decision was also turned down. At this time, a request for consideration of an appeal by the Supreme Court is being drafted. Ahmad, who is also LP national secretary, also indicated that approximately 3,000 signatures toward a goal of about 13,000 have already been collected with financial support coming from the National LP's Ballot Access Committee. ■

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Connecticut LP Heals Rift

Middletown, CT - Despite sharp differences between two major activists in the Connecticut LP (see "SNEL Snuffed," April 1989 AL), both sides managed to vent their feelings at the April 30, Connecticut LP state convention held at Wesleyan University in Middletown. The party "ended up with more harmony than it began with," according to veteran Connecticut LP member Jim Lewis.

The convention itself did not initially disappoint those who expected fireworks between the Jim Davies faction, which controlled key party offices including the chairmanship, and the Tom Ross faction, which numbered several veteran state party members and officers. Ross's efforts to start a non-political education affiliate of the Advocates for Self Government, the Southern New England Libertarian (SNEL) in the wake of disappointment over 1988 election results, precipitated a bitter personal feud in December of last year between Davies and Ross.

Approximately 45 party supporters turned out and for the first three hours of the convention, saw a contentious parliamentary wrangle take place between acting CLP chair Jim Davies and SNEL backer Tom Ross, who continued raising points of order about the legitimacy of the meeting, the role of Davies in the party, and other actions which had occurred in the past few months. Davis repeatedly overruled these points of order and was narrowly sustained on most issues.

At one point in the midst of the arguments convicted tax resister Jim Lewis, who was released from Allenwood federal prison in January, tried to lighten the mood by remarking "I guess I picked the right six months to take my 'vacation.'" This cooled things down a bit and eventually, shortly before time was completely up, delegates got down to business and elected officers and approved new plans.

In the end, both sides got more or less what they had been after and neither party in the dispute chose to seek state party office or run for the Connecticut LP State Central Committee.

Davies made a separate presentation after the convention for his "Plan to Remove the Scourge of Statism from the State of Connecticut by the Year 2,000," which in essence is a blueprint for electing a number of state representatives beginning in 1990. Davies had put in a demand for action, including help in raising an estimated \$50,000 for the first victory, and the "convention wholeheartedly endorsed the plan," according to Davies. Since that was his principal interest since taking CLP office, he was more than happy at the outcome.

Tom Ross, on the other hand, received assurances that the CLP would continue its policy of allowing use of the mailing list for purposes of promoting SNEL and launched plans to hold an initial SNEL convention on May 13, in conjunction with a visit by Advo-

cates President Marshall Fritz. Ross said they hoped to have SNEL set up as a chartered, tax exempt regional affiliate of the Advocates by year end.

By the end of the convention, "we were both tired of fighting," Ross said, and both parties got up at the banquet and shook hands to bury the hatchet. Both Ross and Davies had wanted apologies but were happy to settle for handshakes.

In other business, former LPC secretary Mike Stamper was elected state chair, Rick Loomis was selected vice chair, Bill Loika was named secretary and Gary Fontaine was tabbed for treasurer. Al Naves was named new editor of the *Connecticut Libertarian*, replacing Davies, who also had held that post.

In addition to party business and debate, attendees heard panels on censorship and gun control, and about 40 attended the evening banquet featuring Don Ernsberger speaking on "Libertarians and the Environment." ■

Kansas Libertarians Begin Broadcasting

by Karl Peterjohn

Karl Peterjohn is a former state chair of the Kansas LP and was the regional coordinator for a six-state region of the Ron Paul for President campaign in 1988.

Wichita, KS - The end of the 1988 campaign did not mean that libertarianism would disappear from the airwaves. In Kansas, approximately \$7,000 was spent on radio and TV ads for the Libertarian Party during the last ten days of the 1988 campaign. But our ads were lost in a sea of spots from the Republicans and Democrats.

With hard work and imagination, the Kansas Libertarian Party is back on the air, with "Libertarian Perspective," a three minute weekly commentary on public events broadcast every Saturday morning at 11:05 am on KNSS, AM 1240 in Wichita. The first seven programs discussed a variety of topics: an introduction to the program and libertarianism, gun control, minimum wage laws, local economic development and taxes, ballot access laws in Kansas, Congress, and foreign aid. Uncoming programs will discuss drugs, education, and other current issues.

The concept for this program occurred before the November elections and the first broadcast aired March 11. The reasons for such a long delay were the result of reluctance demonstrated by Wichita's radio stations, which were initially uninterested in this type of program. Our requirements seemed difficult to them. First, we wanted to be on the air for more than 30 or 60 seconds. We did not want the program to be preempted by special events or sports broadcasting. Also, the stations were concerned about our ability to provide intelligent and lively scripts.



During a recess to deliberate, Jim Davies (R) reviews Robert's Rules with his successor as Chair, Mike Stamper. Photo by Tim Jacobs.

The station which showed the most interest, after our persistent efforts, was KNSS, which broadcasts under a news-talk AM format. However, the real key for the station is its sports broadcasting; Wichita's professional indoor soccer team, the minor league baseball team, Wichita State University basketball, and even high school football and basketball are showcased on this station. This meant that we couldn't air our program at an evening time. With our requirements for several minutes of air time, it also precluded any of their nationally syndicated talk programs. Finally, a time was found at 11:05 am Saturday morning before a local sports call-in program.

Then there was the matter of cost. We wanted a long term program which would provide us with the stability a regular time slot provides. Fortunately, AM radio time is less expensive than FM. We arranged quarterly payments totaling \$585 for 13 broadcasts. Fundraising for the next quarter's programs begins in May.

Broadcasting on Saturday morning was not our idea of prime time, but was acceptable for the audience we want to reach. We want to use the program as a forum for libertarian opinion, without interruption or editing, to express libertarian ideas to everyone who is listening to the station. The program's kick-off became quite timely, as we used our forum to blast the state legislature for tightening ballot access restrictions.

Libertarians have a hard time getting news coverage under the best of circumstances. In non election years it seems almost an impossibility unless a successful public protest occurs. The weekly "Libertarian Perspective" program is a way to fill this void. It gives local libertarians experience writing and speaking on radio, and it provides credibility for our organization. The program also helped generate an hour long interview with the news director of another AM station in Wichita.

The program is a worthwhile educational tool for our membership, as well as an outreach outlet to the public. Transcripts of our broadcasts are being printed for use with other news media, the legislature, and the public.

The program format consists of a 10 to 20

second introduction, a 20 second plug for the Libertarian Party as the sponsor (giving our address and phone number), and finally the rest of the text about the week's topic.

Naturally, we want to expand this program beyond Wichita. We have made inquiries to other Kansas radio stations. If we can raise another \$210, we can begin broadcasting from a Hutchinson, Kansas station for 13 weeks between 5 and 6 pm. There is no good reason why this program couldn't be broadcast in other states, or even nationally. It is a tangible tool for fundraising, and provides us with a credible public forum for libertarian ideas.

If you would like to help promote "Libertarian Perspective," please send contributions to: **Libertarian Party of Kansas, PO Box 3735, Wichita, KS 67201** and we will send a set of our first seven transcripts. Please note your request for transcripts, and enclose at least \$10. We will be happy to let anyone use our scripts for their own broadcasts, with their own address and telephone number inserted in place of ours. ■

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