

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

September/October 1996

Special Election Issue

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Steve Forbes Stumps for Ron Paul

In September, a veteran libertarian politician running for Congress got a helping hand from one of the nation's most visible libertarian Republican newcomers - Steve Forbes.

Forbes appeared at a Sept. 13 reception for former RLC chairman and

Texas congressional candidate Ron Paul hosted by the Victoria County (Texas) GOP.

Forbes was approached to take part in the event by Paul staffer and RLC founder Eric Rittberg who met Forbes at the June Texas Republican Party convention in San Antonio.

The lunchtime event was held on the top floor of Victoria's tallest building, 12 stories up. About 150 people attended, including the mayor, most of the city council members, a number of local judges and business people from the 55,000 population Victoria community.

RLC Treasurer Mike Holmes and Texas RLC coordinator Lonnie Brantley presented a \$1,000 check from the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund to Paul during the event. The

RLC's PAC Sets Yet Another Record

by Mike Holmes

The RLC's affiliated political action committee, the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund (RLFCF) has already set a new fund-raising record this year and is on track to double the previous gross receipts record set in the last presidential year.

As of mid September, the RLFCF has taken in over \$ 13,000 in contributions, well surpassing the \$ 7,981 received in 1992, the first year of the PAC's operation.

"This record result reflects three things," noted RLFCF president Dr. Matthew Monroe, a Houston cardiologist long active in libertarian causes. "First and foremost, Ron Paul's congressional campaign has generated tremendous enthusiasm from donors. Secondly, the RLC has steadily expanded its influence and impact, particularly as a result of the 1994 GOP revolution in Congress

contribution brought the total contributions to Paul to date to \$7,000.

For the first 40 minutes

or so, Forbes and Ron Paul worked the crowd shaking all hands and doing the meet-and-greet. The next 25 minutes were oc-

cupied with the donor photos taken in a side room, where \$100 bought a photo opportunity with Paul and Forbes. The final 20 minutes featured brief remarks by Ron Paul and Steve Forbes, after their introductions by the Victoria County GOP chairman.

The duo then moved on (via small plane) to Bay City, about 80 miles south east, where Rittberg said they had a turnout of 200+ at an afternoon rally.

The campaign raised about \$5,000 at the Victoria event, possibly more. The prior evening in Dallas at a Rangers game campaign fund-raising event (in a luxury box at \$ 1,000 a seat) they raised about \$ 25,000. His campaign effort is ultimately expected to top \$2 million, although he has received very little money from PACs other than the RLC-affiliated one. The money has been raised largely from small donors on Paul's extensive mailing lists.

The buzz from some knowledgeable sources at the Victoria event is that Ron's opponent Charles Morris has begun running TV ads in Austin calling himself a conservative. Morris, a trial attorney, is being aided by the DNCC and AFL-CIO PACs. Paul's campaign is believed to retain an edge over the little known Morris, who lacks campaign or political experience and is trying to shed both his nickname ("Lefty") and his decidedly liberal political bent.



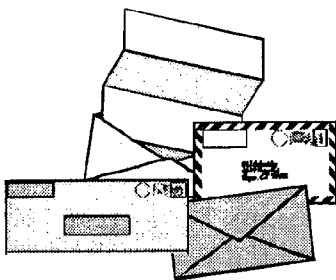
Ron Paul and Steve Forbes

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Feedback

LP a Help and Hindrance

Editor:

The article in your July/August issue, "Does Today's Libertarian Party Help or Hinder..." was an excellent and balanced summary. Missing, however, was any discussion of reforming the LP to overcome its shortcomings, a notable absence considering that most RLC members are optimistic about enacting wholesale changes to the much larger and established GOP.

The article's accurate description of various LP actions could easily be matched with a list of similar GOP embarrassments and even backsliding on the core Republican position of fiscal conservatism. In sum, let's keep the LP for now and try to improve it.

Andrew B. Spark
Sarasota, FL

Editor:

While many libertarian Republicans are rightfully proud of the gains that we've made inside the Republican Party, let's not forget the vital role the Libertarian Party plays. While the RLC plays a larger role in public policy, the role of the Libertarian Party is to introduce people to libertarian philosophy and add principled arguments to the national debate. Also, the threat of voters abandoning the Republican Party will hold the Republicans more accountable.

Jake Ketscher
Laramie, WY

Editor:

Both the LP's and RLC's approaches have disadvantages. While the LP is the victim in a game of keep-away with big parties and the media, the RLC is in danger of being diluted and misled. Still each strategy has some possibility of succeeding, so I would hate to see either disappear.

Miles Fowler
Oakland, CA

Editor:

The attack on the Libertarian Party in the last issue was arrogant and biased. I also find examples of Libertarian Party infighting - like those listed - extremely frustrating. But RLC has yet to earn the right to present itself as the only haven for libertarians. Inventing "Seven Reasons to Vote for Bob Dole" (in the same issue) is hardly a solid down payment.

Kirill Yakovlevsky
Waban, MA

Editor:

It appears that the RLC is heading down the "slippery slope" into the general morass of politics as usual, characterized particularly by the suddenly heartfelt endorsement of Dole.

The RLC will go further, albeit slower, by sticking to its guns. Remember this quote from Abraham Lincoln: "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong."

Marie Angell
Houston, TX

Dole Earns High Marks

Editor:

I just got the July/August newsletter in which you ask the question "What do Libertarian Republicans Think of Bob Dole?"

You missed the boat by not waiting a few weeks. I give him an "A" for choosing Jack Kemp, of course! Kemp and Whitman in 2000!

Cece Forrester
cece@ais.net

No Virtue Without Liberty

Editor:

Responding to his letter to the editor in your July/August edition, I must ask Mr. Perz which church plans to take over the United States? I am a fundamentalist Christian yet I am also a supporter of Alan Keyes, a Roman Catholic. I support him because his political positions are rooted in the Declaration of Independence, a document that represents a coalition view of freedom between both Christian and libertarian viewpoints.

As Christians, we understand there can be no liberty without virtue nor virtue without liberty. Please remember this from 2 Cor. 3:17, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Edward Pfenninger
Sugarland, TX

Republican Liberty

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R e p u b l i c a n PARTY CRASHERS

The GOP's tightly-scripted San Diego convention provided a great boost for our party, but didn't allow for active participation - or even entrance! - for intra-party groups like the RLC. So we put gonzo campaigner Tom Walls on the case. Here is his report...

Monday, Aug. 12

At a Newport Beach Cafe, California RLC coordinator Matt McDonald and I enjoyed breakfast along with the free-market *Orange County Register*.

We futilely awaited the arrival of 800-plus copies of the *Republican Liberty* special convention issue. After encountering the empty-handed postman (we made it a point to sack him once we take over) we decided to depart. At Kinko's we prepared media kits that included an introduction to the RLC, an invitation to join and a few flattering articles about libertarian Republicans. We drove down the Pacific Coastal Highway to San Diego.

At Starbuck's Coffee we met graduate student Garrett Jones. We talked economics and libertarian gossip and freshened up at a condo in La Jolla. Heading downtown, we passed a billboard of a local Democratic candidate accusing Republicans of fighting for the right of children...to own assault weapons! I revealed that I got an AR-15 at age 14.

We spotted Croces Restaurant and Jazz Bar, the site of the initial RLC meeting. On the street we met Pennsylvania RLCer Gary McElwee and formed a small group outside. Humor columnist Dave Barry walked by and I grabbed him, making him take some outreach literature. Once seated inside, we noticed Dan Odescalchi and staffers for More Freedom 2000 were sitting next to us. His group was formed under Republican National Committee auspices to counter the labor unions' multimillion dollar campaign on behalf of Clinton and Co.

We talked strategy and plans for outreach during the week. Unfortunately, convention delegates Gary Popkin and Mike Flynn did not make it to the meeting. Since we did not meet up with them, we were not able to take advantage of any guest passes or other forms of admission. This would not stop us, however.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

After breakfast, Garrett lent us his computer to produce a flyer announcing the night's RLC meeting. "Libertarian Republicans! Meet tonight at Johnny M's 801!"

The More Freedom 2000 crowd had invited us to the Forbes Forum at the Hotel Coronado in dazzling Coronado, over the bridge from San Diego. The event was sponsored by Americans for Hope, Growth and Opportunity, Forbes post-campaign political effort (the staffers jokingly referred to it as Hope 'n Grope). The

roster included Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Pete DuPont, Herman Cain (president and CEO of Godfathers Pizza) and economist Alvin Rabushka among others. The topics were the flat tax and economic growth. We were greeted with smiles and free pastries and drinks.

The pre-lunch reception outside on the sunny green esplanade was wonderful. As we mingled with the guests, a number of Forbes staff approached us all, asking about our libertarian Republican stickers and where they could get them. Even British Conservative Party MP Andrew Duncan slapped on a LR sticker! Several other guests were interested in the RLC and we exchanged business cards.

We were invited to lunch to see Steve Forbes speak. After a small incident involving broken glass ("I can't take you anywhere!" exclaimed Garrett) and a minor injury, I rushed the stage after he finished. The throng was too thick to have a meaningful talk with him, but we did have our picture taken together. Some of the Forbes staffers wanted to come to our meeting, but they had to work until late. They told us to come back to the Hotel Coronado for the New York delegation's party that night.

We drove to the small, fenced-in protest field. There was little activity except for a very small Chicano group demanding a \$10 per hour minimum wage and assorted anti-AIDS activists. The only Rightist group was an anti-immigrant organization of about 10 senior citizens, one of whom claimed to have been beaten up by



RLCers Tom Walls (left) and Matt McDonald hobnob with Steve Forbes at an event sponsored by Citizens for a Sound Economy.

stick-wielding Mexican communists. He held a sign that said "NAFTA=Mexican Cocaine" I asked him if Mexican cocaine was any good, Mexico not being a coca-producing country.

We hit the convention entrance with hundreds of flyers; even if the recipients could not attend our meeting they would at least know about the existence of libertarian Republicans.

On that day, RLC literature was placed in the hands of Rush Limbaugh and John Sununu. Also spotted were Phil Gramm and his

Continued on page 4

Party Crashers!...from page 3

family, Dick Armey and Bill Bennett. I purposely avoided Bennett, although newfound fellow traveler Doug Greene gave him his literature on the banned African root from which the drug-addiction cure Ibogaine is made. "Oh, I haven't heard about that one," said the former drug czar.

We spread out as widely as possible to distribute our literature, eventually losing sight of one another. Around 6 p.m., I remembered the press was using the Marriott as a headquarters, so I got in and saturated their mailboxes with meeting flyers. Then I made my way with Greene to Johnny M's for the second RLC meeting.

Several people we met while handing out literature showed up to the meeting at Johnny M's, making for a better turnout than the first night. I gave my prepared motivational speech about the mission of the RLC. After that, DeRoy Murdock, a columnist for roughly 25 papers including the *Orange County Register* interviewed Matt, Garret and I for one of two big convention stories he was writing - on the abortion debate and libertarian Republicans.

The in-house blues band was not that great (or bluesy, for that matter) so we decided to leave for the New York delegation's party at the Coronado. We arrived at the immense back deck of the hotel where there was food, drinks and New Yorkers. Some of the Forbes people were there, including Michelle Jeffress who attended a

Outside was an assortment of fruits and nuts, including the Republicans for Animal Rights (a Hare Krishna front group - I'm not kidding!) and a gay man with a sign that read "Republicans have no sex."

summer seminar of the Institute for Human Studies and who may attend our convention in December.

I danced a little bit to the Surf Kings, a bunch of middle-aged guys who look like the Beach Boys do today: portly, balding and wearing Hawaiian shirts. The young and old went berserk when they played *New York, New York*.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

McDonald took the car back up to Newport Beach to see if the Republican Liberty newsletters arrived. I filled myself in on the convention events with the RNC literature and schedules we had picked up. I noticed the official 1996 Republican platform was titled "Restoring the American Dream," coincidentally the exact title of Robert Ringer's classic book advocating libertarianism.

I studied the layout of where all the media were, and made my way over to the twin towers of the Marriott. I proceeded to drop our media kits into as many offices of the media as possible.

I ran into reporter, actor and legal commentator Dan Gifford and his wife. Gifford spoke at the RLC's 1994 convention.

In mid-afternoon I met up with Greene and McDonald. McDonald was struggling with a heavy box of newsletters...they finally arrived! I immediately set up shop and Matt and I began passing out RLs to the convention-goers. We punctuated our handouts with interjections of "libertarian Republicans" and "more freedom, less government!" Responses ranged from "you're at the wrong party" and "isn't that an oxymoron?" to "interesting" and "Oh, my husband's a libertarian." Some people were hesitant to take things from us, since there was an assortment of fruits and nuts

outside, like Republicans for Animal Rights (a Hare Krishna front group - I'm not kidding!), a gay man who had a sign that read "Republicans have no sex" and some religious people. Matt and I were wearing ties; this seemed to help.

Many responded to my cry of "more freedom, less government" with "that's what we're here for." I usually said, "We're here to make sure of that!"

I spotted Abner Mason of the Log Cabin Republicans going in. He mentioned attending our 1994 convention in Gatlinburg, TN.

The newsletter is a good source of info for journalists, so I

Many responded to my cry of "more freedom, less government" with "that's what we're here for." I responded: "We're here to make sure of that!"

returned to the Marriott to give out as many as possible. I gave one to Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) who was talking with journalists.

I returned to the convention hall entrance, passing out newsletters as the convention let out. After a long day of outreach, we treated ourselves to dinner at the Marriott.

After dinner, we encountered a famous beltway TV pundit escorted by three attractive women in their 30s. He had a leisure jacket, open-collared shirt, puffed on a cigar and was definitely in a relaxed party mode. "Barry Goldwater could be considered a libertarian, you know. I'm a closet libertarian, myself." Bob Dornan's son also came up to meet the famous roundtable host. We had a good conversation and a few chuckles.

Thursday, Aug. 15

Thursday was the big Planet Hollywood event with Steve Forbes, sponsored by Citizens for a Sound Economy. I put on my "libertarian Republican" T-shirt and was ready for the event. In line I spoke with some of the More Freedom 2000 people and exchanged addresses. I also spoke with Paul Beckner of CSE, who I heard is an old LPer from the Ed Clark days, and invited him to join the RLC. The young CSE group were hip to the fiscal conservative/socially tolerant message. Anita Sheth, an aide of Florida Rep. Dan Miller approached me and asked where she could find a shirt like mine.

Former RLCers Jeff Singer and Melinda Pillsbury Foster attended. I also ran into Dick Armey and gave him a newsletter. "You always get a good rating from our group," I told him. Later, I found

A columnist for roughly 25 papers interviewed Matt McDonald and I for one of two big convention stories he was writing - on the abortion debate and libertarian Republicans.

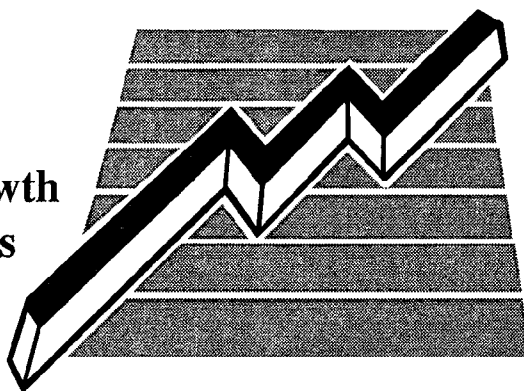
out he gave Rep. Greg Laughlin (who Ron Paul defeated in the primary) a big contribution, the excuse being "he's reliable."

I finally got a chance to speak with Forbes about the RLC. I also gave him a copy of a letter I had published in the Florida Times-Union in which I advocated the flat tax.

Matt, Garrett, Doug and I said good-bye to all our friends at the CSE/Forbes event and headed north. I dropped off Doug at his hotel in Old Town and Garrett at his truck. Matt and I packed and took the Pacific Coast Highway up to Newport Beach again. On the way back, we listened to Dole's fairly libertarian speech on the radio and wondered if we had made an impact.

Going Up...

Ron Paul Race, RLC Growth Enthuse PAC Contributors



PAC Sets Record...from page 1

which is reflected in the RLC Congressional Advisory Board membership. Finally, our experience shows that election years naturally boost interest in the PAC, and presidential election years particularly so."

The presidential elections appear to add interest to libertarian Republican politics, even though the RLFCF's only presidential contribution, to pro-capitalist publisher Steve Forbes, was returned this spring because he didn't accept any PAC assistance.

Nearly \$ 11,000 has been distributed to 16 federal, state and local GOP candidates, but the lion's share amounting to \$ 7,000, as of Sept. 13, has gone to Texas District 14 congressional candidate and immediate past RLC chairman Ron Paul.

A Lake Jackson, TX, area ob-gyn physician, he previously served four terms in Congress from the late 1970s through 1984 in the nearby Texas District 22. Paul unsuccessfully challenged Phil Gramm for the open Texas U.S. Senate seat in 1984 and in 1988 bested Indian activist/actor Russell Means for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination, ultimately garnering 436,000 votes. He rejoined the GOP in 1994 and defeated incumbent congressman former Democrat-turned-Republican Greg Laughlin in an expensive and nasty primary and runoff battle earlier this year in District 14, which stretches from outside of and between Austin, Corpus Christi, Houston and Galveston. The RLFCF has been Paul's largest single contributor.

A number of the RLC's congressional Advisory Board members have been targeted by the Democrats, since most are freshmen and all are among the most hard core of the radical Republican congressional renaissance. The RLFCF has already helped four on the liberal hit lists: Jack Metcalf (WA), Helen Chenoweth (ID), J.D. Hayworth (AZ) and Steve Stockman (TX). The RLFCF would also like to assist all of the RLC Advisory Board, but particularly those members who appear on various political "endangered Republican lists" such as Brian Bilbray (CA), Frank Riggs (CA) and Todd Tiahrt (KS).

The PAC has helped non-incumbent congressional contenders in addition to Paul, including Patricia Parker in her uphill Los Angeles area CD 30 race and Rich Sybert's second attempt at the Ventura area CD 24 effort, which he narrowly lost to the now retiring incumbent in 1994.

State and local candidates who have received RLFCF funds this year include Bill Greene of Miami, Fla., in his second state house attempt, Tom McClintock's Los Angeles-area state house race, Nona Brazier's Washington state GOP gubernatorial primary bid and Tucson area state house contender Scott Kirtley.

Other local candidates who merit support include Bob Hedlund's state senate race in Massachusetts, where he is the only

incumbent GOP senator to draw an opponent, and RLCer David Greene's Brooklyn area state senate race. There are other worthy candidates in New Mexico, California and Colorado, as well as Jill Chambers of Georgia, who is seeking a spot as DeKalb County Commissioner.

Other congressional candidates coming to the RLC's attention in recent weeks in-

clude Susan Sweetser, the GOP challenger to socialist Bernie Sanders in Vermont's single congressional district. Sweetser is a two-term GOP state senator from Essex.

Another good prospect is Bob Kilbanks effort in Pennsylvania's CD 15, running against an incumbent Democrat in a district which voted 21 percent for Perot in 1992. Although not an RLC member, Kilbanks was recently quoted in a district newspaper pledging to "actively participate in the Republican Liberty Caucus ... who don't just talk about it, they go out and help elect pro-limited government candidates."

The RLFCF hasn't been as fortunate this year on the U.S. Senate side, with assistance to candidates such as Jim Miller (VA), Jimmy Blake (AL) and Tom Post (RI), who all came up short in their primaries. Colorado's Gale Norton was also slated for assistance but was knocked out in the primary.

U.S. Senate RLC hopes are now centered on New Jersey and Louisiana. New Jersey Congressman Dick Zimmer has long received modest support from the RLFCF, though he has declined to join the Advisory Board.

From Louisiana comes a surprise GOP contender in state Rep. Woody Jenkins who won the open Senate primary with 26 percent. Jenkins for many years was the only actual libertarian Democrat anyone could identify. Most well known for his active pro-life stance, popular in the Bayou state, Jenkins was well recognized for his principled libertarian stands 20 years ago, when he (then an Objectivist) and Ron Paul first became active in politics. A Republican since the 1980s, Jenkins faces liberal Democrat Mary Landrieu on Nov. 5.

"We have a lot on our plate this year," Dr. Monroe said. "It's a tough year, with the presidential prospects what they are. We want to top off Ron Paul's race to our \$ 10,000 maximum contribution and then contribute to as many of the others as possible."

Money is the Mother's Milk of Politics

It's true! Electing libertarians to office takes money and we need your help. Individuals may contribute a maximum of \$5,000 per year to the RLFCF, subject to an overall limit of \$25,000 for all federal campaigns.

Federal law requires that the PAC request employer and occupation from donors.

Checks should be payable to: RLFCF, and sent to: RLFCF, 10878 Westheimer # 395, Houston, TX 77042.

Activist News

"Conspiracy!": Libertarian Republicans and Allies Invade Local GOP ExCom

Advocates of limited government have long despaired that while every government program has a committed and attentive minority fighting for its expansion, the mass of taxpayers who would oppose it (if they even knew about it) are disconnected, unorganized and ineffective.

It's an old, old story - but one that may be about to change in Palm Beach County, Florida. And the way the change is occurring is an object lesson for RLC activists.

In June, a few activists from different conservative, populist and libertarian organizations, some quite tiny living room outfits, began talking with local political and educational groups about lending their name to a united front against big government. The result is the American Liberties Coalition.

Given an early on-air boost by WBZT talk show host Dick Ferrell, the group was off to an active start:

- Nearly a dozen local groups identified themselves with the coalition, including the *Voices of the Florida Taxpayer* newsletter, the Palm Beach County Tax Cap Committee, Citizens for Constitutional Property Rights, the NRA, the Libertarian Party, Women for Responsible Legislation and others.

- A picnic was held at a local park in July which attracted almost 500 people, according to the *Palm Beach Post*. Groups

Notable Quote

"The most common perception of the brand of politics dominating the [internet] is one of radical libertarianism. Both the *Wall Street Journal* and *Rolling Stone* have made this claim, and pugnacious libertarians are among the most visible regulars in usenet discussions...

... The question remains: When all is said and done, is there a new politics emerging in the net/cyberspace/digital culture? Short answer: Yes, if by 'new politics' one means an increased visibility for certain strains of ideology, like libertarianism, that have not generally made it through the mass media's bozo-filters. Libertarianism - with its zealous advocacy of laissez faire capitalism, deregulation and privatization - is a ready-made 'killer app' for high-tech startups, would-be millionaires and the rest of the 'don't tread on me' cyber-crew. Mix this in with the current impatience toward half-failed liberal solutions and mammoth government and we may see some unusually radical proposals enacted in Washington..."

- Jay Kinney, quoted in *Wired* magazine 1995.

manned literature booths, provided speakers and signed petitions between servings of hot dogs and beer. U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, a RLC Advisory Board member, and other politicians were among the speakers.

- Coalition organizers convinced 149 people to run for the seldom-contested 180 seats on the Palm Beach Republican Party Executive Committee. About 40 were unopposed. The REC endorses candidates and legislation and directs the party's volunteers.

This was done simply by making a presentation to each group that shared the broad goals of lower taxes and less government and signing them up to run for an REC post. Groups, in turn, were encouraged to identify and sign up other activists. By the filing deadline, the coalition had recruited the 149.

While the numbers are not available at presstime, the coalition claims that on the first try it has earned a majority in the body that directs the county's Republican Party, the dominant party on the Palm Beach County Commission.

From beginning to end, what the *Palm Beach Post* called a "conspiracy" took about four months, cost very little money and resulted in the ascendancy of coalition leaders to positions of far greater influence in the community. Now the new REC is in a position to identify and support better candidates.

This could be anywhere; this could be everywhere. RLC affiliates are encouraged to consider such projects in their quest to take libertarian ideas into practical politics.

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Michigan State Rep. David Jaye agreed Aug. 28 to join RLC's Advisory Board. Jaye has been a member of the RLC and is a good friend of former Executive Director Eric Rittberg.

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In September, surveys were mailed to all active RLC members. Members were asked their opinions on a range of questions about RLC activities and *Republican Liberty* to their presidential choice.

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In July, RLCer Jay Taylor of Gainesville, GA, lost his primary bid for a state house seat with 45 percent of the vote in a two-way race.

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RLC Advisory Board member Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) wrote to the Presidential Debates Commission requesting that the Libertarian Party presidential candidate be permitted to debate Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. "I, as a member of Congress, would like to recommend that Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne be invited to participate in the upcoming series of debates. His participation can only enhance the quality of these proceedings. Although my party affiliation and endorsements lie elsewhere, I feel it is only fair that all viable political parties be acknowledged and invited to participate."

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RLC Executive Director Mike Griffin and RLC Congressional Liaison Greg Koontz attended a Capitol Hill fund-raiser for California congressional candidate Rich Sybert on Sept. 19 on behalf of the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund, RLC's PAC. Sybert promised to join the RLC Advisory Board and attend the RLC convention after his election. Earlier in the week, an RLFCF check for \$500 was presented to Sybert by RLCer Laura Crockett.

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At presstime, the RLC is preparing endorsement letters to be sent the campaigns of the Advisory Board and other candidates.

Media Notes

In a July 29 article covering the Libertarian Party's presidential-nominating convention, *Insight* magazine asked RLC executive director Mike Griffin for his comments.

According to *Insight*, "[Griffin] agrees that the LP - which might seem to be on the opposite side of the anti-statist universe from the RLC - serves a useful function in promoting discussion and circulating ideas. 'I think they focus on issues that are very important to libertarian thought,' Griffin explains, 'and they've been doing it for years.' At the same time, when asked if the Libertarian Party will have any electoral effect this fall, Griffin replies with a flat no."

• • • • •

Box-office tough guy Kurt Russell is not one of Hollywood's trendy cocktail-party socialists. According to a recent interview with Russell in *Newsday*, the star of *Tombstone* and *Escape from L.A.* likes boar hunting, libertarian politics and is a booster of the National Rifle Association.

• • • • •

Sen. Daniel Coats is getting cold feet. The Indiana Republican was quoted Aug. 16 in the *Washington Times* as saying that the Republican Party erred in letting its "libertarian wing" dominate the legislative agenda. "The libertarian view beyond the flat tax was the dominant theme of the first half of this Congress, particularly in the House," he said. "House members are struggling with that now. It didn't accomplish its purpose." Instead, Coats is peddling a five year, \$50 billion legislative package titled the Project for American Renewal.

RLC Executive Director Mike Griffin responded with a published letter to the editor in *The Washington Times National Weekly Edition* Sept. 22. In part, the letter said: "I disagree with Sen. Coats the libertarian agenda is hurting the GOP...President Clinton's vetoes and Democratic filibusters are what held up the GOP agenda." The letter also noted that "the Republican Liberty Caucus has represented this growing wing of the GOP since 1988."

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On Fox Sunday News with Tony Snow Sept. 15, former Bob Dole campaign staffer Roger Stone denied charges that he and his wife advertised in the sex pages on the internet. But he also said people's private lives are not the public's business. He also stated twice that he considered himself a libertarian Republican.

RLC Membership Schedule Changed

As of January 1, 1997, every member of the RLC will have their membership renewal date fall on Jan. 1. Currently, the renewal date is the anniversary of the date the member joined.

This new "universal calendar" method, which is currently used by the Republican National Committee, will save money, make it easier to remind members to renew and aid in the RLC's budget process.

All RLC members who have renewed since Sept. 1 can renew at a pro rata rate.

Ron Paul Campaign Seeks Volunteers

The Ron Paul campaign invites all RLCers and others to Texas District 14 to assist with on-the-ground campaigning. The campaign will furnish room and board to volunteers upon arrival through Nov. 5.

For more info, call Eric Rittberg at 1-800-RON PAUL.

Legislative News

by Greg Koontz, RLC Congressional Liaison

To build on this year's progress, it is vital the RLC retain the Congressional members of our Advisory Board. The RLC urges you not only vote for these members if possible, but that you volunteer time, effort and money to their campaigns:

Rep. Brian Bilbray-CA. Cosponsored the Medicinal uses for Marijuana bill H.R. 2618 and voted to eliminate draft registration.

Rep. Helen Chenoweth-ID. Strong advocate of private property and gun ownership rights as well as the scourge of environmental nuts. Cosponsored many bills endorsed by the RLC such as H.J.R. 176 (repealing 16th Amendment), H.R. 2270 (Enumerated Powers Act, discussed under Hayworth) and H.R. 2364 (discussed under Shadegg).

Rep. Mark Foley-FL. Introduced legislation (H.R. 1801) that would have privatized federally owned power and transmission facilities. Also cosponsored H.R. 2270 (Enumerated Powers Act).

Rep. J.D. Hayworth-AZ. A solid advocate of constitutional government. Sponsored or cosponsored the most bills endorsed by the RLC such as introducing legislation (H.R. 2727) that would prohibit most regulations taking effect until first approved by both Houses of Congress and signed by the president.

Rep. Sam Johnson-TX. Introduced a Constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 176) to repeal the 16th Amendment.

Rep. Jack Metcalf-WA. Cosponsored legislation endorsed by the RLC such as H.R. 2270 (The Enumerated Powers Act, see below) and H.R. 2727 (Congressional Responsibility Act).

Rep. Frank Riggs-AZ. Cosponsored H.R. 2270 (The Enumerated Powers Act).

Rep. Matt Salmon-AZ. Cosponsored bills endorsed by the RLC such as H.R. 2270 (Enumerated Powers Act) and H.R. 2727 (Congressional Responsibility Act).

Rep. John Shadegg-AZ. Introduced legislation (H.R. 2270) that would require Congress to specify the source of authority under the U.S. Constitution for the enactment of laws. Also introduced legislation (H.R. 2364) that would have required conservation and recovery of species be achieved through voluntary, incentive based programs and the cooperation of private property owners.

Rep. Nick Smith-MI. Attempted to begin the privatization of Social Security.

Rep. Steve Stockman-TX. Cosponsored legislation endorsed by the RLC such as H.J.R. 176 (repealing the 16th Amendment) and H.R. 2364.

Rep. Todd Tiahrt-KS. Attempted to abolish Federal agencies like the Department of Energy. Also cosponsored bills endorsed by the RLC such as H.R. 2270 (Enumerated Powers Act).

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