

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

September/October 1997

Caucus Newsletter

Vol. VIII, No. V

Forbes' Feathers Ruffled by RLC Letter

Publisher Steve Forbes' recent anti-medical marijuana jihad, criticized by RLC chairman Clifford Thies in the July-August issue of *Republican Liberty* ("Reefer Madness!"), was only the tip of the iceberg in the latest zigzag of the putative Forbes presidential bandwagon, judging from reaction to the open letter and his recent flirtation with the Christian Coalition.

Shortly after the Thies open letter was published, the communications director for the Forbes issues front group, Americans for Hope, Growth and Opportunity, contacted senior RLC leadership and expressed a series of complaints about the article. This staffer, who has previously served as a research director for conservative

radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, was upset with a number of details in the Thies letter, as well as "for publicly admonishing Steve, who has been a friend to libertarians." He wanted to know why "we hadn't checked the facts with Forbes before we came out and attacked him."

The RLC leadership pointed out that the facts used were posted on the AHGO web site, that RLC concerns on the drug war were discussed personally during the January RLC meeting with Forbes himself, and that Forbes hadn't bothered to discuss his recent drug

(Continued on page 3)

Alaskan Rep Joins RLC Advisory Board

by Mike Holmes

On Sept. 24, Alaska State Rep. Vic Kohring - who came to the RLC's attention as a result of an unsuccessful effort by Alaska Libertarian Party members to recruit him - became the newest member of the Republican Liberty Caucus Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board consists of prominent Republican intellectuals, current and former office holders and other libertarian-minded activists who have agreed to associate with the RLC and provide guidance for the organization.

Alaska has seen three LP members successfully win state house office in the 1980s, and one, well-known Fairbanks representative Dick Randolph, subsequently returned to the GOP and made an unsuccessful gubernatorial primary bid several years ago.

Kohring, 30, represents District 26 which includes the rapidly growing Mat/Su valley area northwest of Anchorage, including Chugiak and Wasilla. He came to the RLC's attention as a result of an effort by LP activist Scott Kohlhaas to recruit him. Kohlhaas alerted RLC leaders and urged that Kohring be contacted, noting that he was frequently at odds with the state GOP leadership on issues such as high taxes and government growth, and "was the most libertarian by far of the state's Republican legislators."

The former house painter, who prefers to describe himself as a "principled conservative" rather than libertarian, was first elected to his seat in 1994 under unusual circumstances. The original GOP primary winner dropped out eight weeks before the election and party officials asked Kohring to fill in. Facing long odds against a dairy farmer-homesteader seeking his fifth term, Kohring employed a dedicated "shoe-leather" campaign and made personal visits to



Alaska State Rep. Vic Kohring

nearly all the voters. His work paid off, pulling off a surprise victory with an 18 percent margin. He was reelected with 73 percent in 1996.

The state representative position amounts to a full-time one, according to Kohring, with 18-hour days in Juneau during the 120-day sessions and a heavy schedule of constituent service during the rest of the year.

Kohring is well known for his position on the House Finance Committee, which deals with tax policy, which was a major factor in his sticking with the GOP.

"I didn't want to give up my committee seat by leaving," he noted, "even if I could be elected as a Libertarian. I stayed in the GOP because I wanted to be effective."

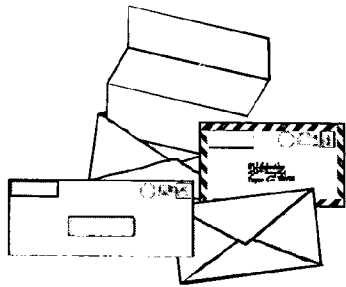
His principled opposition to successful Republican-led efforts to drastically increase the tobacco tax caused considerable uproar and garnered him statewide attention.

Kohring had not previously heard of the RLC prior to signing up, but is looking forward to networking with like minded principled Republicans.

He can be contacted at: Vic Kohring, P.O. Box 870515, Wasilla, AK 99687.

INSIDE

Poll: GOP Needs a Shift.....Page 3
Roger Ebert Visits Waco.....Page 4
RLC's PAC Update.....Page 7



Feedback

Parker: Political Loss a Blessing in Disguise

Editor:

When Iran (unfortunately, without success) for Congress in the last election against Xavier Becerra, the RLC was kind enough to help me financially.

I have enclosed a small check which in no way represents the extent of my gratitude, but rather reflects changed circumstances.

In May, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. While my prospects for full physical recovery are good in the long run, the immediate fiscal situation is one of prudence.

Perhaps losing politically was a blessing in that now I can concentrate my energies on getting well. I have been asked by supporters to once again place my name on the ballot in early 1998 for the 30th Congressional District, but at this point it would be irresponsible to make such a commitment.

I sincerely want to see liberty-minded Republicans win in 1998, but my primary battle for the time being has to be this disease.

I haven't given up on me and I hope you won't either.

My best wishes to you all..

Patricia Parker
Los Angeles, CA

Weld an RLC Natural

Editor:

Since Bill Weld is out of office and obviously ticked at the social conservative leadership of the party, it would seem an ideal time to recruit him even harder to sign on with the RLC.

It would seem to me an opportune moment to point out the importance of libertarian-leaning Republicans sticking together and forming a more cohesive power base within the party.

Snagging a high-profile Republican would be a major coup for the RLC and I would love to see it.

It might also be a good time to approach Dick Lugar, who is standing up to Weld in the Senate. Despite growing up in Forbesland (I actually used to work for Malcolm II as a reporter with his weekly newspaper chain) I always thought Lugar was the real libertarian in last year's crop of candidates.

He was one of only two Senators to earn a "libertarian" rating in the last Liberty Index.

Of course, I'm sure you probably have approached both several times about joining the RLC.

I cannot understand why folks like Weld, Lugar, Forbes, Dick Arney, Dana Rohrabacher, Stephen Goldsmith and Brett Schundler haven't signed up already.

Ray Lehmann
Raymond.J.Lehmann@imco.com

Hatch Joining Clinton 'Mafia'

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep disappointment with the Republican Party (not the RLC). I, like so many others, have come to expect attacks upon freedom and individual liberty from the Democratic Party.

There is absolutely no doubt that the present leaders of the Democratic Party are wannabe fascists.

However, I now learn that our dear Republican Senator from Utah has introduced legislation which would subject firearms retailers to RICO laws (which are unconstitutional anyway) and would enable leftist groups like Handgun Control Inc. to file class action suits against retailers and manufacturers for crimes committed with their products.

These are nothing but backdoor attempts to put honest business people under. This Republican legislator has demonstrated sleazy politics at its worst.

Please use whatever influence we have to stop Sen. Hatch's antics. With this bill, the Republican Party has sided with the worst elements of the Clinton mafia.

William Tucker
Ferguson, MO

Republican Liberty

Editor: **Philip Blumel**

Senior Editor: **Mike Holmes**

Contributing Editors: **Clifford Thies, Thomas D. Walls and T. Franklin Harris.** Contributing Writers: **Fred Stein, Laura Kotelman, Kevin Southwick, Laura Crockett-Gordon and Matt McDonald.**

Republican Liberty is published six times a year by the Republican Liberty Caucus, 611 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. #370, Washington, DC 20003. (Send address changes to same address). The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Republican Party. Permission is granted to reprint articles with proper accreditation. Unsolicited articles or news items are welcome. Questions, comments and criticisms are also welcome. Write us, or phone us at (561) 616-0709. E-mail can be sent to pblumel@aol.com. All letters will be assumed for publication unless author requests otherwise.

Steve Forbes...from page 1

warrior enlistment with us before launching into his ill-advised anti-medical marijuana crusade.

Forbes representative nitpicked about the amount of money Forbes pledged to use opposing medical marijuana initiatives (though figures on the website were used in the Thies piece), and claimed that Forbes only opposes smokable medical marijuana (not pills) and that the Washington State initiative was the main one he was fighting. Forbes' spokesman also claimed that the medical marijuana issue is a "wolf in sheep's clothing", opening the door to legalizing drugs completely, including for children.

The RLC leadership responded by pointing out that our official position is to support alternatives to the drug war, not specific initiatives, although we were unaware of the Washington State initiative in any event at the time of the open letter.

Protecting children from harmful drug use is important, but the current "war" mentality has failed to do just that and is inhumane to those who need marijuana (and other medically useful drugs) for relief. Details about dollars or pills are beside the point.

It was also learned that the main libertarian contact inside the Forbes political organization has been out of the country and it appears that no one inside the Forbes camp is particularly sympathetic to the libertarian viewpoint, despite Forbes' previous efforts to pass as a libertarian Republican.

This was further borne out by Forbes' subsequent September

appearance at the Atlanta national meeting of the Christian Coalition, where Forbes made a well received speech devoid of any hint of libertarian sensibility; instead, he donned the well worn if not somewhat tattered cloak of "family values conservatism", the not-so-secret code phrase for adopting the Christian Coalition agenda.

RLC chairman Thies has noted that the recent Forbes hard right flirtation resembles that of Texas senator Phil Gramm's, in the fall of 1995, when Gramm was considered the leading GOP presidential prospect, and who also had some libertarian tendencies. Gramm then made a series of appearances at the Christian Coalition and other groups in an attempt to reposition himself as a champion of the religious right Republican forces.

No one bought his act, and Gramm's \$10 million presidential nomination bid was over as soon as the Alaskan and Louisiana party caucuses ended.

"We didn't condemn Steve Forbes," RLC Chairman Thies said, "we do feel jilted by him. You don't 'add' to your base by assuming that your current supporters will remain loyal to you when you go courting others.

"Our membership survey shows that an overwhelming majority of members supported Steve Forbes last year. We are anxious to support Steve Forbes, and we will probably support him on an overall basis, although our enthusiasm will be inversely correlated with his calculated appeals to conservatives.

However, our discussion of the political alternatives before us will always be based on principle and analysis. We are, in our own way, calculating."



Publisher Steve Forbes talks with Republican Liberty editor Philip Blumel recently at a Heritage Foundation function in Palm Beach, FL.

WSJ / NBC Survey Shows:

Republicans Should Shift Libertarian

by Clifford F. Thies

The Sept. 19 *Wall Street Journal* contained an eight-page insert entitled *American Opinion*, presenting the results of a nationwide telephone survey of 2,004 adults.

In the latest blip of public opinion, Clinton has gone up, while Congress down. In the generic Congressional poll (i.e., "for the candidate of which party do you intend to vote"), Democrats lead 35-to-29. This compares to mere two-or-three point leads at about this point in the prior two cycles. Even allowing for the usual GOP surge at the end, Democrats may be poised to re-take the House. The real news, however, concerns the opinions underlying these results:

- In a two-question dichotomy, involving "social issues" and "fiscal issues," the Republicans and Democrats are in a statistical tie on the fiscal side (reflecting, I believe, Clinton's re-positioning of the Democrats on economics); but on the social side, Democrats have an enormous twenty point lead! In other words, the right-wing

of our party is killing us with the broader electorate.

- On specific issues, there appears to be a tie, with the Democrats having some advantages (environment, education, etc.), and Republicans having some (taxes, the deficit, etc.). No unusual problem is thus indicated. On perceptions like "looks out for the middle class," Democrats have a lot of small leads, except on the issue of "compassionate." On this perception, the Democrats kick our butt, 41-to-9 percent.

- Among specific groups, Republican sentiment has slipped most noticeably among persons 35-to-49 years old and having some college education. These libertarian-leaning voters should be ours, but are drifting into the Democratic column as the Democrats incline their economic policies toward the middle, and the hard right tightens its control over the GOP's social agenda.

(Continued on page 4)

Roger Ebert Reviews RLCer's Waco Film

RLC member Dan Gifford's and filmmaker William Gazeki's chilling documentary account of the disaster at Waco, Texas, has a new fan - *Chicago Sun-Times* film reviewer Roger Ebert.

In his Sept. 19 column, Ebert gave 3 1/2 stars to *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*, a film that up to now has been featured primarily in college or art theaters that show independent films.

But as *Republican Liberty* reported in its May/June issue, the documentary transcends the populist legends that surround the event and shows in gruesome and honest detail the final days of the siege.

Ebert confesses he was skeptical at first and had come away from news coverage thinking the Mount Carmel cult was a group of gun-toting crackpots that killed federal agents and then committed suicide at their compound as the feds tried to defuse the situation.

But after watching the film, Ebert said, "I am more inclined to use the words 'religion' than 'cult,' and 'church center' than 'compound.' Yes, the Branch Davidians had some strange beliefs, but no weirder than those held by many other religions. And it is pretty clear, on the basis of this film, that the original raid was staged as a publicity stunt, and the final raid was a government riot - a tragedy caused by uniformed boys with toys."

Ebert said the film changed his thinking on the subject for three primary reasons:

"1. It presents testimony from both sides, and shies away from cheap shots. We feel we are seeing a fair attempt to deal with facts.

"2. Those who attack the government are not simply lawyers for the Branch Davidians or muckraking authors (although they are represented) but also solid middle-American types like the county sheriff, the district Texas Rangers, the FBI photographer on the scene, and the man who developed and patented some of the equipment used by the FBI itself to film devastating footage that appears to show its agents firing into the buildings—even though the FBI insists it did not fire a single shot.

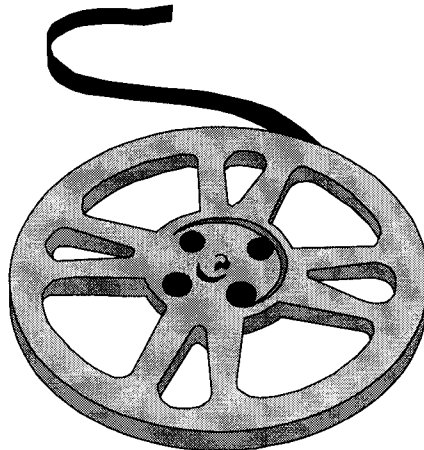
"3. The eyes of the witnesses. We all have built-in truth detectors, and although it is certainly possible for us to be deceived, there is a human instinct that is hard to fool. Those who argue against the government in this film seem to be telling the truth, and their eyes seem to reflect inner visions of what they believe happened, or saw happen. Most of the government defenders, including an FBI spokesman and Attorney General Janet Reno, seem to be following rehearsed scripts and repeating cant phrases. Reno comes across particularly badly: Either she was misled by the FBI and her aides, or she was completely out of touch with what was happening."

The film contends that after their publicity stunt went awry and four federal agents had fallen, the feds - armed with high-tech toys - wanted everyone inside the compound dead.

"What is clear, no matter which side you believe, is that during the final deadly FBI raid on the buildings, a toxic and flammable gas was pumped into the compound even though women and children were inside. 'Tear gas' sounds innocent, but this type of gas could undergo a chemical transformation into cyanide, and there is a pitiful

shot of an 8-year-old child's body bent double, backward, by the muscular contractions caused by cyanide.

"On April 19, 1993, the agents were apparently ready to rock 'n' roll. Heat-sensitive films taken by the FBI and interpreted by experts seem to show FBI agents firing into the compound, firing on an escape route after the fires were started, and deliberately operating on the side of the compound hidden from the view of the press. No evidence is presented that those inside started fires or shot themselves. Although many dead Davidians were indeed found with gunshot wounds, all of the bullets and other evidence has been impounded by the FBI."



Poll...from page 3

Turning to specific personalities; Newt has a 54 percent percent negative rating. MY GOD!

Bill Clinton has a 56-to-26 percent favorable-to-unfavorable rating (the difference of the total from 100 being unknown or neutral). Al Gore has a 38-to-33 rating (which appears to have since fallen to a net negative position with the news of his participation in fundraising irregularities). Dick Gephardt has a 21-to-15 rating. On the GOP side, Jack Kemp has a 32-to-16 rating, George W. Bush a 28-to-15 rating, and Newt Gingrich an eye-popping 19-to-54 rating. Gore exhibited only small leads over Kemp and Bush.

To what does it all add up? Even with a very specific handicap, Republicans are not far behind the Democrats, either in the generic Congressional race or the early Presidential trial heats. This means that if Republicans can successfully address our party's weakness on social issues, and become at least competitive with younger and better-educated voters, we will be able to win the whole thing, President and Congress, in the year 2000.

On the other hand, if Republicans are so stupid to not see these trends, or if they are trapped by the right-wing within our party for whom the most important thing in the world is preventing the legalization of medical marijuana, we should prepare ourselves to live under the rule of a President Gore or a President Gephardt, of a Congress recaptured by the Democrats, and of liberal-activist judges within the federal courts including the Supreme Court.

We in the Republican Party have got to match the political acumen with which Clinton has repositioned his party on the economics side. Our challenge is to reposition our party on the social side. This doesn't mean denying our commitment to virtue and to the dignity of each and every human person. It means recognizing the proper and limited role of government in pursuing the goal of a virtuous society. Our goal must be nothing less than a free and virtuous society, in which the presumption of innocence of our fellow citizens is respected, and in which we reach out voluntarily and in true compassion to those in need.

This is not merely the winning ticket politically-speaking, it is right, just and practical. As William Penn put it, "Freedom without virtue is anarchy, and virtue without freedom is slavery."

Media Notes

'Libertarian' Tom Selleck Urged to Enter Senate Race Against Boxer

Inviting comparisons with a certain other California actor-turned-politician, Tom Selleck's name is being touted as the opponent to radical big spender Sen. Barbara Boxer in the next election.

Though Selleck is a registered independent, he campaigned for George Bush and Bob Dole and made an ad for the conservative *National Review*. According to *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd in an August story on this possibility, "he has been a fixture at the White House correspondents' dinner the past few years, smoking cigars and looking quite at home."

As Dowd puts it:

"Playing a gay TV reporter who kisses Kevin Kline in the new movie *In & Out* would broaden his appeal with certain voting blocs

that do not openly gravitate toward Republicans. And playing a dentist who kisses the younger babe Courtney Cox might get him that demographically desirable, pointlessly angst-ridden *Friends* vote."

Dowd isn't alone in her positive assessment.

"He's not full of himself," says Margery Tabankin, a liberal political and philanthropic adviser to Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg. "He's not a cultural right-winger. He's more of a libertarian."

The idea that Selleck would leave behind his Hollywood lifestyle for Washington's is not so far-fetched. And, as Dowd notes, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis have been egging him on.

Forbes: Cypher-Libertarians Use Technology, Not Politics

In a Sept. 8 cover story, *Forbes* magazine turns the spotlight on libertarianism - the "politics for the really cool," according to the story's headline.

The article focuses on those it calls cypher-libertarians, philosophical libertarians who are using technology - such as electronic cash and cryptography - to whittle away at the power of the state over personal and financial affairs of individuals.

The article features the views of Walter Wriston, the former chairman of Citibank who wrote *The Twilight of Sovereignty*, predicting the weakening of national governments through cryptography; Sameer Parekh, a marketer of "strong crypto"; University of Chicago economist David Friedman; Adam Shostack, who uses strong cryptography to keep Fidelity Investments information safe from hackers; Ian Goldberg, a crypto-cracking hacker; Vincent Cate, founder of Offshore Information Services Ltd., a pioneer of anonymous digital cash; and the libertarian Electronic Frontier Foundation.

These libertarians and others featured argue that technology is going to move a tremendous part of society out of the reaches of regulators. Thus, even with a will to pry and interfere and tax, governments simply will not be able to do it any longer.

Such real world libertarian action underscores the computerized edge libertarians have over their seemingly antiquated competition.

"Libertarianism is much more important in cyberspace than in real space," said David Friedman. "Nearly all political discussion on-line is pro- or antilibertarian. Libertarianism is the central axis."

WSJ Features Maas

In a story on ending racial discrimination by government entities, former RLC board member Mary Maas was mentioned in the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 27. The story focused on efforts in Washington State to pass a referendum modeled on California's popular Prop. 209.

Near the end of the story, we find:

"There is certainly an audience one sunny afternoon for Mary Maas, chairwoman of the state's tiny Libertarian Party, as she solicits petition signatures for the initiative from motorists awaiting the ferry from Whidbey Island to the mainland north of Seattle. 'I lost out on a job because of affirmative action, says Bette Kohlenberger, a secretary from Oak Harbor who quickly agrees to sign.

"'I've seen some incompetents go right to the top,' adds Marvin Otness, a 46-year-old Seattle firefighter. 'The catch-up is done as far as I'm concerned.'"

"It takes more than an hour before Ms. Maas encounters an outright rejection of her pitch to 'end group rights.'"

Notable Quote

"A lot of politicians in Washington worry about the public's perception of their performance. The politicians need to realize that only by cutting agencies like the IRS, not giving themselves sneaky pay raises, and actually passing constitutional legislation, will the public ever do more than than shake their heads in disgust at the day-to-day operations of Congress." -- U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, Sept. 24, 1997, Freedom Watch Update.

(Continued on page 6)

Media Notes

Paul Fights Use of Draft by Clinton's AmeriCorps

In its Aug. 4 issue, *Insight* magazine's John Elvin reported on Rep. Ron Paul's legislation the congressman hopes will obstruct the possible conversion of the Selective Service System into a volunteer-coordinating agency tied to President Clinton's AmeriCorps campaign:

"To use the Selective Service, ostensibly a program designed to enhance our national security, as a means to bolster President Clinton's liberal, failing AmeriCorps is completely ridiculous," the Texas Republican said.

Down the road, as Paul sees it, this initial inroad would be the wedge to combine military and volunteer services. "I absolutely do not want my grandsons to be forced into AmeriCorps' 'national volunteer service' and be sent to distribute needles in some drug-infested area or forced to pick up trash in the national parks, but that is exactly where this could lead," Paul declared.

The libertarian Republican's longer-term objective is to eliminate AmeriCorps, a project he views as an "unconstitutional boondoggle."

Weld Blames 'Libertarian' Label for Nomination Troubles

In his unsuccessful battle to become ambassador to Mexico, William Weld said his libertarian Republicanism was the main reason he ran into opposition for the post.

As reported by *USA Today* on July 29, Weld held a packed news conference at the state house in Boston and challenged Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to hold hearings or stop blocking his appointment.

"Helms has cited Weld's stand on legalizing marijuana for medical purposes as one reason to fight his nomination as ambassador to Mexico, where drug trafficking is a recurring issue. But Weld says the real reason is that he is a 'libertarian' Republican."

But not everyone buys Weld's story. In the *San Francisco Examiner* on June 13, Debra J. Saunders replies "spare me!"

"I used to love this libertarian-style Republican governor, but his acceptance of President Clinton's offer to name him ambassador to Mexico makes Weld the cheap date of the party. Think about it. Clinton wanted Weld out of state to ensure that Representative Joe Kennedy — he of the annulment — has an easy run for Weld's seat. Surely Weld could have finagled a tonier post than black tux to Mexico."

Rodgers Tells It Like It Is

In the Sept. 22 issue of *Forbes* magazine, columnist Dinesh D'Souza tells the story of the dizzy leftist nun who sent a form letter to Cypress Semiconductor chief T.J. Rodgers demanding he hire more women and minorities.

Most CEOs ignored her. But Rodgers said, "She was very ignorant and arrogant. So I figured I'd zap her."

Rodgers wrote her a long and thoughtful letter defending meritocracy in which he said that it would be "immoral" for him to jeopardize the interests of himself, his employees and shareholders by assigning slots to "politically correct placeholders."

Forbes described Rodgers as "an avid admirer of Ayn Rand, the libertarian novelist" who believes that "the entrepreneur is the modern hero, not those who make a living claiming to speak on behalf of the poor and the oppressed."

NY Times: Cyberspace is Libertarian

In an editorial on the Deep Blue vs. Kasparov match, in which man lost to computer in chess, the *New York Times* on May 20 makes several observations about the match and its larger implications.

One, the editorial echoes David Shenk's book *Data Smog*, an "indispensable guide to the big picture of technology's cultural impact.":

"Among the important nonlinear stories being missed is the coming impact of the computer on politics — a story that has nothing to do with politicians' much-documented Web sites.

"As Shenk points out, cyberspace (and its corporate culture) is intrinsically libertarian Republican, a model of 'highly decentralized, deregulated society.'

"This is bad news for big-government Democrats, but not necessarily a bonanza for a GOP keen to restrict immigration (a huge source of digital-industry talent) and regulate morality, on the Web and beyond. Nor is it clear who on the digital political landscape will help the swelling underclass of information have-nots."

Murray: Republicans Blew it

Sociologist and libertarian Republican Charles Murray appeared on C-SPAN in September as the featured speaker at a Libertarian Party fundraiser in Los Angeles.

The libertarian Republican said he was initially encouraged by the 1994 elections, but flatly stated that the Republicans blew it when they failed to point out that the government 'shutdown' did not really make a difference to many people at all.

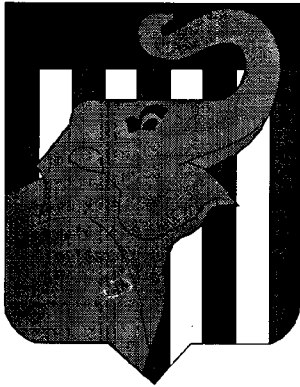
During the Q & A someone asked him about libertarianism within the Republican Party, and in particular what he thought about Steve Forbes.

He briskly declined comment on Forbes. He seemed to make the point that libertarianism would not come from the present party leadership but from the grassroots, blue collar Republicans who want to be left alone by government, have local control of schools, etc. Saying that, he acknowledged Grover Norquist's idea of a "leave us alone" coalition.

Murray indicated libertarians would have to become comfortable working with those with 'unshared values,' i.e. religious conservatives.

Tapes of the broadcast are available for \$31.98 from C-SPAN.

Pac Update



RLC PAC Targets Griffin Race

In an effort to replenish the political war chest of the Republican Liberty Federal Campaign Fund (RLFCF) the RLC's affiliated PAC, a large mailing was sent to friends and supporters of the RLC in late August.

Over \$2,000 was received by the end of September and 1998 primary season contributions are being planned.

The first such donation was presented by Virginia RLCer Richard Sincere to Maryland delegate District 34 (upper Chesapeake Bay) primary contender Mike Griffin on Oct. 2. Griffin is vying for one of three district seats from this normally Republican area in the upcoming 1998 primary. Griffin's kick-off fundraising party was held at the Washington DC home of Americans for Tax Reform chairman Grover Norquist, well known political commentator, activist and godfather of the libertarian-oriented "leave us alone" coalition.

Griffin is immediate past executive director of the RLC, has a long history of political and Republican activism and has recently been working for another Maryland house delegate. The RLFCF presented him with a \$350 check. Another major contribution, to Ron Paul's 1998 congressional primary fund, is slated for November according to PAC treasurer Mike Holmes.

Against the background of House and Senate hearings and

special prosecutors investigating multi-million dollar illegal Democrat fundraising practices and White House shakedowns, the FEC has been also diligently reviewing the RLC's PAC for possible violations.

The FEC recently sent the RLFCF three threatening letters requiring immediate response. Common to all three letters, which cover three reports filed in late 1996, is the demand that RLFCF reports, which show "limited payments" for administrative expenses, fully disclose any and all such payments under 2 U.S.C. Sec. 434(b)(3).

PAC treasurer Holmes called the FEC and reported that as a volunteer run PAC, our administrative expenses are quite modest and are all already fully disclosed in the reports.

"It's nice to know the FEC has plenty of time to question why we spend so little on overhead," said PAC treasurer Holmes, "while obvious illegal campaign violations by the president's party are ignored by the FEC. The ill-considered push for adding yet more laws under the guise of 'soft money' reforms will simply make matters worse."

Despite bureaucratic interference, the RLFCF remains committed to aiding good liberty-minded Republicans in their campaigns. Contributions should be sent to: **RLFCF, 10878 Westheimer # 395, Houston, TX 77042.** (The FEC requires that we request your occupation and employer information.)

Large bags of cash or requests for White House events and lodging are, regrettably, not accepted. Please direct these to the Democratic National Committee instead.

RLC Notes

Pope, LaPierre Elected to ACU Board

James Arthur "Art" Pope, a founder of the North Carolina RLC and chairman of the board of the North Carolina-based John Locke Foundation, along with Wayne R. LaPierre, Jr., executive vice-president of the National Rifle Association, and were elected this week to seats on the 33-member Board of Directors of the American Conservative Union (ACU).

"ACU is most fortunate to now be able to benefit from the experience, insight, ideas and service of Wayne LaPierre and Art Pope," said ACU Chairman David A. Keene. "They each are distinguished in public affairs, business, and leadership. I'm delighted to welcome them aboard, and all of us at ACU are grateful for their willingness to give of their time and expertise on our behalf."

Pope is executive vice-president of Variety Wholesalers, Inc., of Raleigh, NC, owner-operator of more than 500 retail stores in 14 southern states. Long active in libertarian Republican politics, he was a state legislator from 1989 to 1993, and the 1992 GOP nominee for lieutenant governor. Besides the John Locke Foundation and the RLC, Pope has been affiliated with other public and private

organizations such as the Institute of Humane Studies at George Mason University, the Thomas Roe Institute of the Heritage Foundation, and the John William Pope Foundation.

RLC Represented at California GOP Convention

California RLC Chair Laura Crockett-Gordon in September attended the Calif. State Rep. Convention in Anaheim. She addressed the College Republicans, met candidates and attended the "best workshop held at the convention," the one on media. She also held a long discussion with William Westmiller on his campaign for the District 24 Congressional seat (see cover story last issue).

The upside with Westmiller is that I don't have to worry about his take on the issues," she said. "The downside is that I have about six months in which to get his name before the public." The California RLC has also endorsed state legislator hopeful, Tony Strickland, a "libertarian, personable and knowledgeable." The California RLC's goal is to endorse five candidates, giving hands on help in two or three of the races.

**Republican Liberty
Federal Campaign Fund Office**
10878 Westheimer, Suite 395
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 867-9060

REPUBLICAN LIBERTY CAUCUS
<http://www.rlc.org/>
New Member Info: 1-800-752-9646

Administrative Office
611 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. #370
Washington DC 20003
(352) 373-1768 voice
rlc@rlc.org

National Officers and Staff

Clifford Thies, Chairman
Laura Kotelman, Secretary
Mike Holmes, Treasurer
Alan Turin, General Counsel
Mike Griffin, At-large
Laura Crockett-Gordon, At-large
Matt Monroe, PAC President
Tom Walls, Executive Director
David Burton, Congressional Liaison
Advisory Board (Partial list)
U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray (CA)
U.S. Rep. Helen Chenoweth (ID)
Rep. Tom Feeney (FL)
U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (FL)
Sen. Brad Gorham (RI)
U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth (AZ)
Sen. Bob Hedlund (MA)
Rep. David Jaye (MI)
U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson (TX)
Rep. Vic Kohring (AK)
Assmb. Tom McClintock (CA)
U.S. Rep. Jack Metcalf (WA)
U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (TX)
Rep. Penn Pfiffner (CO)
U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs (CA)
U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon (AZ)
Fmr. State Sen. Duncan Scott (NM)
U.S. Rep. John Shadegg (AZ)
U.S. Rep. Nick Smith (MI)
Fmr. U.S. Rep. Steve Stockman
U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt (KS)

Alabama RLC

Franklin Harris, Chair
1102 E. Forest St.
Athens, AL 35611
(205) 233-0878
Arizona
Roy Miller
1529 W. Virginia Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 254-4648
California RLC
Laura Crockett-Gordon
(818) 772-9943
Colorado RLC
Eric Field, Chair
9029 E. Miss. #Q104
Denver, CO 80231
(303) 750-0505
Florida Liberty Caucus
Mike Fender, Chair
P.O. Box 2627
Orlando, FL 32802
(407) 644-2484
Georgia RLC
Earle Smith, Chair
5672 River Hts Crossing
Marietta, GA 30067
(770) 984-8145

Kansas RLC

Tony Osio, Chair
(316) 686-2245
Dr. Ron Waln, Cdr.
P.O. Box 21297
Wichita, KS 67208
Maryland/DC
Greg Koontz
3501 St. Paul St #736
Baltimore, MD 21218
liblovgreg@aol.com
(410) 235-5157
Massachusetts
Alan H. Cousin, Chair
443 Newport Ave.
Wollaston, MA 02170
(617) 770-4188
Michigan
Jack McHugh, Chair
309 W. Genesee
Lansing MI 48933
(517) 267-0804
Nevada
Charles Muth
3659 Scottswood St.
Las Vegas, NV 89121
(702) 454-0350

New Hampshire

Cliff Berry, Cdr.
22 Kristen Dr.
Derry, NH 03038
(603) 437-7021
New Jersey RLC
Matt Taylor, Cdr.
299 Main Street #5
Madison, NJ 07940
(201) 488-4641
New Mexico
Trent James, Cdr.
1025 Valencia S.E. #1
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 266-2998
New York RLC
Gary Popkin, Chair
849 President St.
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 783-0592
David Greene, Vice-Chair
North Carolina
Ken Day, Cdr.
40 Deer Run Rd.
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(704) 669-2352

Ohio

Chris Hrivnak, Cdr
P.O. Box 196
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
(216) 491-1731
crivnak@aol.com
Pennsylvania
Carol Golden, Cdr.
161 E. Duncanon Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 324-8221
Texas
Lonnie Brantley, Chair
502 E. X Street
Deer Park, TX 77536
(281) 479-6477

Correction:
In the last issue, Executive Director Tom Walls' e-mail address was listed incorrectly in this newsletter. The correct address is afn18566@afn.org.

Please send all checks to RLC's
Houston address above.

Name _____

Address _____

- _____ Trial Sub./2 issues \$6
- _____ Subscription Only \$18
- _____ Gift Subscription, \$10
- _____ Student/Military \$20
- _____ Regular \$30 (Couple \$45)
- _____ Premium \$50
- _____ Sustaining \$100
- _____ Patron \$250
- _____ Associate \$500
- _____ Roundtable \$1000
- _____ Benefactor \$5000

Memberships include dues for both national and state levels for one calendar year. Members/subscribers receive six bi-monthly issues of *RL*. Current members are eligible to participate in RLC functions.

Please add \$8 outside of North America

**Now you can join the RLC
or subscribe to Republican Liberty
using your CREDIT CARD!**

_____ Visa _____ MC

Acct# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Be sure to use your CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS!

Republican Liberty Caucus
611 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. #370
Washington DC 20003

BULK MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1040
LEESBURG, FL
34748



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED