

PROMINENT AREA LEADERS QUESTION DRUG WAR



*Judge John O'Brien
Detroit Recorder's Court*



*Geo. W. Crockett, Jr.
United States Congress*



*Johannes Spreen
Past Oakland County Sheriff*

DETROIT OFFICIALS CALL FOR DEBATE, SUGGEST THE RE-LEGALIZATION OPTION

Congressional leaders, law enforcement professionals, judges, and other government officials are taking what, to many, is considered a revolutionary stand when it comes to drugs -- making them legal.

In Metro-Detroit, both Johannes Spreen, former Oakland County Sheriff, and Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. have indicated they are in favor of legalization of some drugs. Others, like Recorder's Court (city of Detroit) Judge O'Brien, while not advocating the immediate legalization of drugs, are saying that the idea "ought to be talked about" and investigated.

**Exclusive from staff writer
- Judy Shultz**

O'Brien, who has been a judge in the criminal courts for 17 years, handles all kinds of cases, from larceny to murder. Experience has convinced him that the present system is not working.

"In our building [Frank Murphy Hall of Justice] we have 30 to 32 judges working on criminal cases, plus district courts - *cont page 3*

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MDL TAX PROTESTERS WITNESS ROYAL OAK BOMBING

by Steve Silver

On Monday evening April 16th 1990 the annual tax protest by MDL took place at the Royal Oak post office. Among those in attendance were Stan Gentry, Tim

O'Brien, and myself. Our efforts were interrupted by a fire bomb which had been placed in one of the canvas carts used to collect the last minute returns - *cont page 2*

NEWSMAKERS

Witness cont.
across from the post office.

Before the bomb exploded, I was standing near the carts handing out MDL literature to the late filers as they drove by. Postal employee Tom Berlucchi noticed smoke coming from the cart. He held up a tan padded envelope which continued to smoke. I almost jokingly said, "It's a bomb". A second postal employee made the innocent suggestion to toss the smoking envelope into a nearby puddle. Tom quickly took the suggestion and bravely used his foot to submerge the envelope. The smoking stopped and we all stepped back.

The envelope suddenly exploded in a ball of smoke and flame. The bomb sprayed the vicinity with tiny bullets of flaming embers which burned Tom in the face and hands. My pants were riddled with tiny burn holes and my hand had a small burn.

Police and firefighters quickly swarmed the post office, surrounding large areas with yellow ribbons and ordering citizens away. Tim, Stan and I were not allowed to get near our vehicles which were unfortunately parked near the explosion.

In the days since the bomb exploded, we have all been interrogated, finger printed as well as subjected

to tedious hand writing analysis by the postal police. The subpoenas included a non-witness whose crime was transporting Stan, Tim and myself back to the Royal Oak post office from the Detroit post office late on the evening of the explosion.

The media showered this violent protest with the kind of attention libertarians only dream about. If the intent of the bombers is to focus media attention on the issue of IRS crimes, it seems to have been a major success. Do ends justify means? Does the coercion used by the state to collect taxes justify a violent response?

Our founding fathers had to resort

ROYAL OAK UPDATE: The Royal Oak bombing of 16 April grabbed national attention, including the lead stories the next morning on NBC's Today program and CNN's Headline News. At the scene were a handful of hardy MDL demonstrators pressing their tax protest gospel to the last minute filers who would listen and take their literature. After the incident and after assisting the authorities in what way they could, they returned to their homes. In the following days, the U.S. Postal Inspectors have since subpoenaed witnesses Steve Silver, Stan Gentry, and Tim O'Brien, as well as Emily Salvette (who arrived immediately after the incident). Through either a planned campaign of harassment or inept investigative work on the part of the postal police, the MDL informational picketers have found themselves in the center of undue attention and disruption of their personal lives. The four along with a fifth MDL driver have become known as the "Royal Oak Five." They have endured a pattern of extended job interruption, vehicle impoundment, strongly suspected phone taps, tailing by in-

vestigators and even more bizarre, repeated garbage seizure! The authorities have blurred the distinction of witness and suspect, and in the process, given pause to the five's freedom to assemble and freedom to speak. These rights are plainly spelled

out in the First Amendment of our Constitution. Since libertarians are universally acknowledged to reject the initiation of force, the course of postal police's "sophisticated" line-of-sight investigative technique takes on a comic opera aspect; they might enjoy better luck by staking out their local independent Baptist church in hopes of cornering an atheist. But what isn't funny, is the investigation's intimidation, it's



DEMONSTRATOR AND WITNESS, STEVE SILVER

chilling effect upon the MDL advocates's free and innocent expression of liberty, and ultimately, its effect on our own as well. The Postal Inspectors should reconsider their actions before they wake up and find local libertarians in possession of a first class civil liberties issue with an attentive and sympathetic press corps waiting in the wings.

-- Adam Selene

NEWSMAKERS

to force to overthrow British rule. The Declaration of Independence lists a number of wrongs perpetrated by the English government as justification for the Revolutionary War. Our current government makes King George look like a de-clawed kitten.

Even so, there are a number of reasons why the bombing was wrong. The simplest is that innocent people were endangered (me for instance).

Innocent people have also been interrogated by the government (me for instance). I can only hope that this sudden interest by the government in the lives of the protesters doesn't extend to phone taps and other Orwellian intrusions.

Thoreau, Ghandi, and Martin Luther King have shown that civil disobedience can bring about change without being violent. It takes courage to face down the

state and accept the consequences. Secretly planting a bomb is cowardly. The battle for liberty must be fought with ideas, not guns. Violence is for statist, not libertarians -- *Steve is part-owner of The Oil Dispatch, Inc., a local quick oil-change chain. He has been active with Metro-Detroit Libertarians for the last two years and currently serves as its fundraising coordinator.*

RE-LEGALIZATION cont.

around the county. We're backlogged and can't keep up. Most of these cases, 70% to 80%, are drug-related -- they are either directly involved in drug sale or possession, or with crimes involved in drug sale or possession. We can't keep up, our prisons are full. At what point do you decide that there's a different way to handle this?"

O'Brien emphasized the fact that at this point he is simply advocating discussing the possibility of legalizing drugs. He did say, however, that he would include all drugs -- especially hard drugs -- in the legalization. Citing the country of Columbia as an example, he said that if our government could legally purchase drugs on an open market, then sell or give them to addicts, we could wipe out the illegal drug trade and eliminate the Columbian drug barons.

Other officials are suggesting that the time for discussion is past, and it's time to take action. Johannes Spreen, who has been in law enforcement since 1941, believes that if crime is to be effectively controlled it must be prioritized -- with first priority going to crimes that are the biggest threat to public safety. This is a philosophy he put into practice during his time as police commissioner for the city of Detroit.

Controlling "Crime"

As for drugs, Spreen said our police can barely control ordinary crimes, "much less those crimes financed and backed by organized crime and drug millionaires."

"I have come to the conclusion that we should now legalize marijuana and license and tax its manufacture and sale,"

Spreen said.

He does not propose a blanket legalization of

all drugs. He proposes using monies realized from the drug sales for prevention and education programs, as well as for treatment programs for the other "more deleterious" drugs.

Considering his long-time involvement in the law enforcement segment of the government, his enlightened attitude might seem surprising. But, according to Spreen, this issue has been around for some time:

"It is interesting to me that upon my appointment to the New York City Police Department on June 9, 1941, Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia

stated (at our appointment ceremony) that a report indicated marijuana was not harmful. Sad, isn't it, how little we really know about it today. Some say it's harmful. Some say it's not."

Spreen isn't the only prominent official who is voicing his opinion about the benefits of legalizing drugs. Early this year, Congressman Geo. W.

Crockett Jr. told the *Detroit News* that he favors "decriminalization of the private use of drugs." However, he emphasized the fact

that he is talking about private use and possession of drugs, not their sale or transfer.

Preserving Civil Liberties

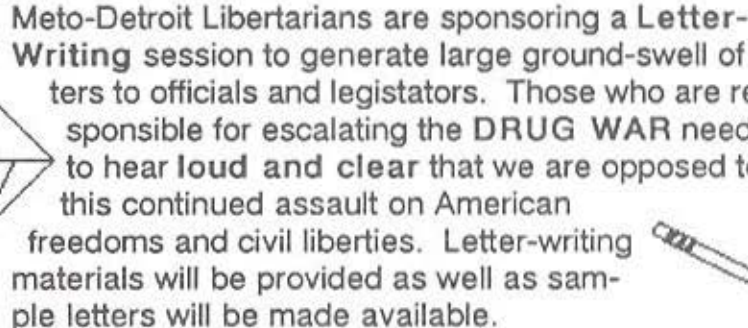
Crockett, along with other "thinking" people, is skeptical about the so-called war on drugs, said the present drug policy seeks to legislate and regulate personal behavior, in direct violation of Constitutional freedoms.

"Drug czar William Bennett -- whose background and training is education, not criminal justice -- thinks any questioning of our

- *Continues on page 9*

NOTEBOOK

SPECIAL LETTER-WRITING SESSION TO COMPLIMENT DRUG RALLY



Meto-Detroit Libertarians are sponsoring a Letter-Writing session to generate large ground-swell of letters to officials and legislators. Those who are responsible for escalating the DRUG WAR need to hear loud and clear that we are opposed to this continued assault on American freedoms and civil liberties. Letter-writing materials will be provided as well as sample letters will be made available.

Rally to END THE DRUG WAR!

Sponsored by The Metro-Detroit Libertarians

WHERE: McNamara Federal Building -- Michigan Ave at First Detroit

WHEN: Thursday, June 7, 1990

The American Drug War:

- Breeds Crime
- Corrupts Police Departments
- Overwhelms the Criminal Justice System
- Endangers the Lives of Police Officers
- Fuels Organized Crime
- Entices Children into Use and Dealing
- Fills Prisons with Non-Violent Offenders
- Targets Minorities and the Poor
- Violates Civil Liberties
- Cost Billions in Tax Dollars
- Devastates Neighborhoods
- Exposes the Addicted to Tainted Drug Supplies
- Degrades Those Suffering from Drug Addiction
- Exacerbates the AIDS Epidemic
- Subverts Third World Countries
- And Doesn't Even Stop Drug Use!

Join us in demanding and end to this insanity!

Rally Endorsed by: Nancy Geragosian
Don Kostyu (Justice Pro Se)
Libertarian Party of Michigan
NORML (Michigan)
NOW (Downriver Chapter)

National Libertarian Party
RDLER
Howard Simon
UNSOM
David Wineman

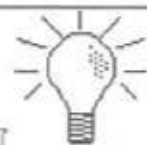
Just Say "No" to Drugs and the Drug War!



WHEN:
Wednesday, June 13, 7:00 pm

WHERE:
Unitarian Universalist Church
on the corner of 4th Avenue
and Cass, Wayne State area
of Detroit. Room 200, use
front entrance. See you there.

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NOTEBOOK: Supper Club Update

The Detroit SupperClub

All Metro-Detroit Libertarians are encouraged to attend and participate in our supperclub events. They are designed to be as entertaining as they are informative. Speakers and topics are drawn from today's headlines. Our selection of themes have ranged far across today's artificial left/right spectrum. The inclusion of any topic or speaker does not constitute an MDL endorsement, or repudiation for that matter. Since libertarian issues are morally based and broadly applied, our events have become a potpourri of new and stimulating ideas.



Jim McAbee Leads Recent Discussion Group

Normally MDL members meet at 6:00 PM for socializing, order dinner around 6:30 PM, and break for the speaker or discussion at 8:00 PM. Early reservations are greatly appreciated and provide us with an idea of program size. Make sure to call Stan Gentry at 757-5085 with your intentions. We encourage patronage of our host restaurant menu selection; however, allowances are made for late arrivals. A request for a modest (and entirely voluntary) \$2.00 donation will be made to help cover the event's expenses.

- Mark Sellers

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Dave Sheldon, assistant editor
Mark Sellers, newsletter coordinator
Stan Gentry, organization
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Metro-Detroit Libertarians is an association of individuals committed to liberty. We are not an affiliate of any political party; but instead a multi-dimensional organization that promotes individual freedom, with emphasis upon community service, education, and social activities.

June 18	CARLOS MURPHY'S 29244 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield 1/4 mile north of 12 Mile Rd., NE side of Northwestern Hwy	Discussion Group: Dick Whitelock Chair, Libertarian Party of Michigan "The Myth of Democracy"	Open Menu Separate Check 352-6330
July 16	MAMA MIA'S 27770 Plymouth Rd. Livonia 3 miles west of Telegraph, North side of Plymouth	Guest Speaker: Charles Hahn Attorney Manufacturer's Bank "Fully Informed Jury Amendment"	Open Menu \$9 - \$11 Range Payment at Door 427-1000
Aug 20	RED LOBSTER 25901 Hoover Warren South of I-696	Discussion Group: Dave Sheldon "The Income Tax--Is It Constitutional?-- Is It Moral?--Is There a Better Way?"	Open Menu Separate Check 759-0010
Sept 17	CHI CHI'S 2080 Telegraph Bloomfield Hills One mile north of Square Lake Road, West of Telegraph	Guest Speaker: Larry Reed President, The Mackinac Center Topic to be Announced	Open Menu One Check per Table of Eight 335-9797
Oct 15	THE WOK INN 44000 Hayes Road Mt. Clemens 1/2 Mile South of Hall Rd, East of Hayes	Discussion Group: Tim O'Brien "Libertarianism vs Socialism"	Open Menu Separate Check 263-7780
Nov 19	CARLOS MURPHY'S 29244 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield	Annual MDL Planning Meeting	Open Menu Separate Check 352-6330
Dec 15	WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY hosted by Karen & Scot Scarborough at their home in Davisburg		

RIPOSTE

The Anarcho-Capitalists Strike Back

EDITOR:

Dave Sheldon's article In Defense of the Constitution [Winter '90] was interesting and addresses a crucial issue first raised by Lysander Spooner more than a century ago: contemporary Americans can not be presumed to have agreed to be bound by the U.S. Constitution since, obviously, none of them signed it.

However, there is, I believe, an even more fundamental problem with the Constitution. One which precludes the possibility of libertarians agreeing to it -- that is, it endorses the initiation of force. Article I, Sec. 8 states: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes..."; the 5th Amendment allows private property to "be taken for public use..."; and the 6th Amendment permits "compulsory process for obtaining witnesses..."

These are fatal flaws for those who believe that force may never be initiated against peaceful, honest people. Once any kind of aggression is permitted, the moral high ground is lost. Anything else is merely rearranging deck furniture on a sinking Titanic.

And as Lysander Spooner observed, "But whether the Constitution really be one thing, or another, this much is certain -- that it has either authorized such a government as we have had, or has been powerless to prevent it."

Tim O'Brien
Madison Heights

EDITOR:

I read Dave Sheldon's article, In Defense of the Constitution, with a little bit of incredulity even though Dave is one of my favorite people. But here we disagree.

Even the very idea that there is a valid defense of the Constitution is flawed. The fact that the Constitution came about as a result of a coup d'etat invalidates any claim to its being moral document. Delegates had been sent to Philadelphia to tweak the Articles of Confederation a little and instead threw out the older, original "constitution" altogether. Upon recognizing the illegality of this action, eight of the delegates left the convention immediately. Another eight simply refused to sign it. Their protests have been long forgotten and central government has since become immeasurably more powerful.

The idea that this is a constitutionally limited government invites ridicule. In 1786 government had already been limited. One can't say that we then limited government in 1787 by evolving from a government made up only of a tiny congress to a government consisting of three large branches and all their retinue. Or putting it another way, how can you limit government by increasing its size or by making provisions for its continued exponential growth? After the new government had been put in place, it proceeded to grow by leaps and bounds each passing year.

Most of the problems we are having today were predicted by those who opposed the ratification of the Constitution: the welfare-state, direct debilitating taxation, judicial tyranny, our congressmen living like kings, and of course the list goes on. Once you give government the power of the purse, along with a standing army, freedom is null and void.

In the 1790's shortly after the Constitution went into effect, certain "problems" arose that would prove to be harbingers of what was to come. Here are just two: Henry Laurens, Representative from New York, and James Madison found

themselves locked in debate whether or not the Federal Government should subsidize Maine fishermen! Another "problem" was the creation of the First Bank of the United States, an entity that the Constitution *supposedly* did not empower the government to create.

Many conservatives and some constitutionalists stress the importance of laws and submission to authority without recognizing their source. The only reason anyone should have authority is when individuals are in a position (based of course upon mutual consent) to feed, clothe, and protect others under their authority. When people do these things for themselves, no one should have authority over them. In a truly free society there would be few laws -- after all there are only a few broad categories of crimes: murder, rape, theft, etc. All law should have as its premise that individuals (or groups) should not interfere with the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for those whom that law is meant to serve.

Dave Sheldon says problems of society without government boggle the mind. I think it boggles the mind how society has managed to carry on with government so long. Regretfully some parasitic relationships can last quite a long time.

Jim McAbee
Romeo

Editor's Comment: The Grey Sheet encourages lively, open dialogue. The above thoughtful commentaries are much appreciated. The point of view I expressed in "Defense of the Constitution" is my own and not necessarily reflective of MDL as an organization. The debate this article provoked will be revisited at the August SuperClub meeting on the Income Tax issue.
-- Dave Sheldon

FROM THE CLOSET

by Andrew Little

When the *Grey Sheet's* editor asked me to write an article about "coming out of the closet," I gasped!

Naturally I would feel this way. I have a strong penchant for the opposite sex (and wouldn't want any young, sexy libertarian-leaning women to think otherwise.)

But Mark was right. I am "coming out of the closet", having been a political prisoner of my own volition. For the past three years, I've found myself in the morally precarious position of privately espousing libertarian views while publicly working as a spokesman for our military.

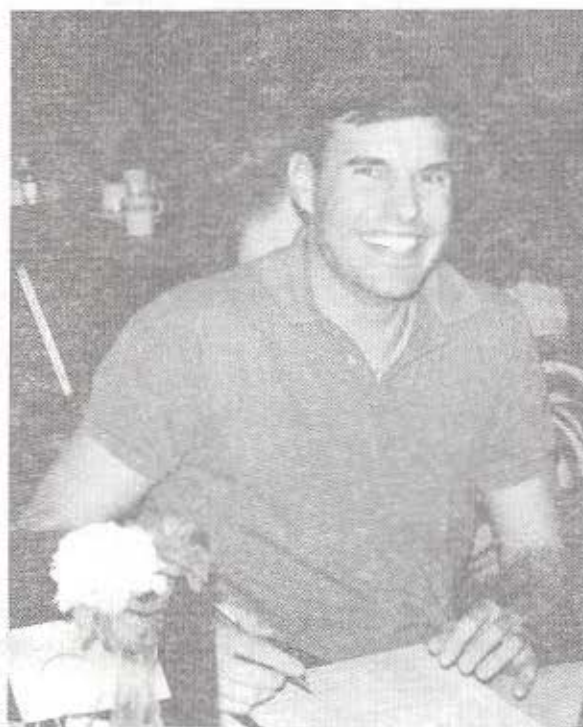
As a public affairs officer at the Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, I sometimes had to represent Air Force positions I didn't necessarily care for. Case in point: plans to put MX missiles on rail cars at Wurtsmith, the infamous Rail Garrison deployment program.

But its now over. I left the Air Force as of May 21st this year. I'm free! No longer will I be issuing the standard statements such as "according to the Air Force..." or "military officials say...." Now rather it is "I think..." and "I believe...". Super!

Serving in the military was like living in the "belly of the Beast." The bureaucracy is a mind-numbing experience. The waste and inefficiency, incredible.

My favorite case in point is when the Air Force paid a contractor to paint new lines on the streets and then, several weeks later, had another group of workers pave right

over the same roads. The paint hardly had time to dry!



Why is this lieutenant smiling?

Just recently, a top commander asked for ideas on how to make the military more efficient. Now, I figured there was a better chance of Elvis returning as the Libertarian Party candidate in '92 than for any real attempt at making the military more efficient. Nevertheless, if the

Remember, Adam Selene says, "All serious libertarians know the importance of a fashion statement." The reasoning person's T-Shirt Inspires the libertarian, interests the thinker, and tweaks the socialist's nose. Comes in official MDL "Grey" in sizes M, L, and XL. \$12.00 add an addition \$2 for postage. Write: Steve Silver, 10444 Lincoln, Huntington Woods, MI 48070 (All proceeds will be donated to MDL)

Commander wanted ideas, by God, I'd give him some!

This was the last time someone in the military asked me for a suggestion. I recommended privatizing our boondoggle commissary (a socialist-style military food store). Not only was my suggestion ignored, the Air Force instead built a newer, high-tech \$5 million dollar 'boondoggle' commissary.

The next time, my suggestions were a little more reserved. I recommended privatizing everything on base that wasn't directly involved with flying or weapons including the sale of all 1,324 government-owned houses and apartments on the Wurtsmith air-base and including the Commander's residence. Unfortunately, my immediate boss canned that idea before it got to the General and instead forwarded a suggestion to buy new electric pencil sharpeners (or some idea just as meaningless).

But alas, no more nonsense for this guy. Having recently been selected as an intern at the Cato Institute of Washington D.C., I'm headed to battle the bureaucracy from the "outside." It should prove to be great fun, an exciting experience and best of all, this time my closet will only be for clothes. -AL

I THINK
THEREFORE I AM...



...A LIBERTARIAN

THE ECONOMY

FOCUS ON THE MARKET

IF A PRESIDENTIAL PLEDGE ISN'T CREDIBLE, WHAT IS?

by David L. Littmann

"Peace for our time." "No new taxes." We know the Chamberlain pledge was a lie; what about the Bush pledge?

Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain naively figured he would wheel and deal with the devil in September 1938, trading other people's lives and property for a nonaggression pledge from a notorious aggressor, Adolf Hitler. Chamberlain's desire to be loved and his innate political instincts to compromise on principle gained him a place in the history books, but little else.* Chamberlain's "peace for our time" ravings helped induce the ravages of World War Two, the most costly war in human history. Had Britain armed itself and stood by its original treaty obligations and pledges, war probably would have been averted. One half century later, another original pledge (made in September 1988) now might be vitiated by compromises with the devil.

President Bush, concerned with an escalation in budgetary red ink, has invoked a bipartisan summit to beat back the red tide. The announcement that no topics would be barred from consideration -- including tax increases -- might simply be a ploy to regain national attention for budget deficits -- a topic that consistently ranks very low among voter concerns.

The President's call for budget summitry could be a clever ruse -- a means of advertising -- to rein-

force in the public's mind the stereotype of Democrats as a people and party of taxers and spenders. Then again, making a dramatic gesture might underscore the President's real apprehension of a truly desperate budgetary situation -- one that could prove financially upsetting or economically unfortunate before the 1992 election.

Regardless of the true motivation for the budget summit, there exists a "realekonomik" counterpart to the realpolitik of the situation. Realekonomik, or policy based on economic reality, demands awareness of the following facts and facets:

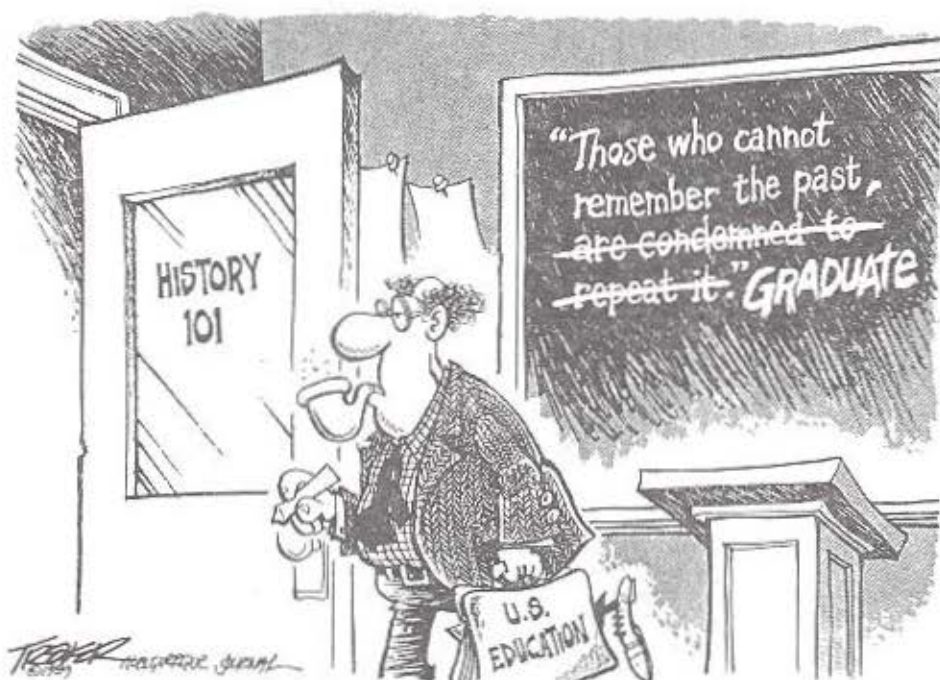
- Between 1947 and 1986, each new dollar of federal taxes collected gave rise, on average, to \$1.58 in additional federal spending. New taxes have thus been associated with larger budget deficits.
- Between 1986 and 1987, limiting federal spending to a 1.4 percent

gain helped bring the annual budget deficit down by \$72 billion! Moreover, 1986 was a weak year for the economy, as 1990 is threatening to be.

- Tax increases reduce consumer purchasing power and saving.
- When Congress has talked spending cuts in the past, they have only signed onto cuts in projected growth rates for spending that were wildly inflated at the outset.

Beyond the empirical evidence cited above, the logic of the budget battle suggests the following:

- Cuts in tax rates, not increases, are the proven means for stimulating real GNP, thereby augmenting IRS receipts in the face of an economic slowdown.
- For those who blame rising interest rates for the unexpected surge in government spending, it is puzzling how adding to the taxpayers' woes by raising taxes would help matters, since the entire private sector is injured by rising interest rates -- for the individual who must fi-



With permission of John Trever

*"In Germany, the British prime minister became for the moment almost a hero because he had prevented war." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, volume 8, 890C

THE ECONOMY

nance a car to the builder attempting to finance a construction project.

• The Gramm-Rudman Law provides an automatic rollback of spending in the event Congress and the President cannot agree on the details of final outlays. Is this so bad? After all, it should be noted that if the economy were growing at a very slow rate (i.e., real GNP growth at 1 percent for less for two consecutive quarters), the Gramm-Rudman spending restraints would no longer apply. However, as it stands, with economic growth at 2 - 3 percent annually, new revenues on the order of \$40 - 50 billion automatically accrue to the Treasury each year.

The true cost of government (the real problem) is not government taxation; the true cost is government spending. It is government spending that absorbs higher shares of the total output available and competes prices higher, everything from interest rates to rental prices on office space. Moreover, the federal government sector is considered by experts to be among the laggards in productivity growth. Why should government receive more of the economy's scarce resources at a time when the private, productive sector is weak?

Realeconomik suggests the opposite.

David L. Littmann is the First Vice President & Senior Economist for Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit

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RELEGALIZATION continued from Page 3

policies is dangerous and defeats his grand scheme to use the criminal law to control drug usage and abuse in America. But free speech on this subject can only serve to open a much-needed discussion of where we are, and where we want to go, in addressing the use of drugs in our society," he said.

Unlike many of his colleagues in Congress, Crockett is a first-hand witness to the threat to liberty posed by the present legislation. "When I was a judge of Recorder's Court in Detroit (1966-78), I saw hundreds of men and women come before me, charged with using drugs. The 'drug of choice' at that time was heroin. The 'criminals' were mostly black and most-

ly shut out of the American dream. In most cases, their privacy had been invaded by an illegal stop, search, and seizure," he said.

What about the economic policy of the President? "If we follow the Bush Administration's FY91 budget, we're going to waste more than \$10 billion following the bankrupt course we're on; and the drug Cartel will continue to siphon off tens of billions [of dollars] in our productivity, and destroy thousands of lives in their quest for illicit profits," he said. Crockett also said he realizes that many people don't want to listen to the arguments for decriminalization of drug use. "It's tough to face the fact that our energies are misdirected," he explained.

- Judy Shultz

POSTAL INSPECTORS OFFER REWARD

The reward in the Royal Oak tax night mail bomb case has been increased to \$25,000. Postal Inspector in Charge, Charles Wilson said, "Up to \$25,000 can now be offered to anyone who provides information or services that lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the Royal Oak mail bomb". The reward was increased because of the injury to an innocent U.S. Postal Service employee.

Postal Inspectors are still pursuing dozens of leads, a painstaking and time consuming process. Each tip is treated as legitimate until investigation reveals otherwise.

Postal Inspectors are determined to find the responsible party, and hope the increased reward will prompt someone to come forward with some additional information. "Someone out there may know something they don't think is too

important, but which could be the one thing we need to break this case open," Wilson said. "We keep all information confidential. Anyone with information can call us 24 hours a day at (313) 226-8184."

Notification of increased reward comes a little more than one month after April 16 blast, which injured postal employee Tom Berlucchi as he helped collect tax returns in front of the Royal Oak Post Office.
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service news release.

[MDL editors condemn the use of force in the Royal Oak incident. Although we are righteously indignant about the misdirected investigation still in progress, it is our feeling that all that civil servants need to fear from free women and men is competition of the marketplace.]

BROADCAST

THE FOLLOWING IS COMMENTARY by Tim O'Brien ...on CIVIL RIGHTS

Two hundred years ago the concept of "rights" was well understood and widely accepted in America. What seems obvious now -- that every individual has certain inalienable rights -- was very radical at the time. George III took it for granted that he ruled over his subjects because God wanted him to -- a concept called the "Divine Right of Kings."

What made the American Revolution so revolutionary was the rejection of this ancient rationale in favor of the idea that *everyone* has basic, individual, natural rights. No one is entitled to rule over others by divine decree. But, it went even further than that. These natural rights -- like the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to pursue happiness -- may not justly be abridged by *any* government. Considering the fact they had no practical experience with democracy, our country's founders showed incredible foresight in recognizing what Tocqueville called "the tyranny of the majority" and did everything they could to prevent such an occurrence.

Alas, two centuries later, much of their efforts seem to have been in vain. Our original constitutional republic has, indeed, degenerated into a democracy. In fact, now our system is widely touted as that in government schools and by the public at large.

This development required the rejection of the idea of natural rights as well -- replaced by what are called "civil rights" which supposedly reside in groups rather than individuals. So, we have civil rights for blacks, women, gays, the han-

dicapped, you name it -- just about everyone except healthy, heterosexual, white males. But such bogus "rights" are actually a wholesale assault on the very idea of rights.

There can be no rights to food, housing, education, a job, and so forth, precisely because these so-called "rights" are actually a coercive claim on the property or unchosen actions of others. Rights protect people from each other. They certainly don't enslave people to one another.

Of course, any service provided by government for the benefit of all the people must be available equally to all the people. Thus, Rosa Parks was heroic in her refusal to accept second class status on a government-subsidized bus.

On the other hand, the famous Supreme Court decision *U.S. vs Heart of the South Restaurant* was a triumph of civil rights and a dark day for genuine rights. If you're not familiar with the case, it involved a bigoted restaurant owner who refused to serve blacks in his restaurant. The Court, determined to enact its social agenda despite the inconvenience of property rights, used the tortured logic that, because the restaurant was located along I-75, the federal government could intervene under the Interstate Commerce clause of the Constitution and compel the owner to serve whoever walked in.

This decision eliminated the distinction between public property (like a bus line) and private property open to the public (like a restaurant.)

Now, bigotry is an ugly thing. And I don't want anything I'm saying to be construed as a defense of bigotry. It's not. However, what I *am* defending is the right of people to be bigots and still own and control their own property. The government didn't put up the capital to start that restaurant. Taxpayers weren't subsidizing the place or taking the risk that it might go bankrupt. The fact is that a racist did those things. And that made it his right to serve or not serve whomever he wished. If he chose to exclude potential customers, it was his business. And, I'm confident, the free market will either eliminate or compensate for such individuals. But, I'm certain the government has no lawful authority to resolve the problem by coercion.

There is a lot of discussion going on in Washington these days about passage of a Civil Rights Act of 1990. It appears inevitable. But, if it were in my power, not only would this new legislation not be passed, I would repeal all previous "Civil Rights Acts" and return us to the philosophy of natural rights and individual freedom.

It is ironic that the same people who urge compassionate tolerance for gays, minorities, AIDS victims, and countless other groups are ruthlessly dictatorial to those who disagree. It seems they'll tolerate everyone except the intolerant. And they forget that genuine rights allow people to make their own choices. Like it or not, real freedom of association, for example, also has to guarantee the freedom not to associate.

-- Tim O'Brien is a regular bi-weekly editorial contributor to local PBS radio affiliate WDET. He may be found at 101.9 FM every other Friday at 7:30 AM. This commentary ("Civil Rights") was aired March 2, 1990.

BROADCAST

THE EDWARDS NOTEBOOK

Guns or criminals! Which would you rather get rid of? As I embark upon today's page of the Edward's Notebook, I'm hard pressed to find out why so many Americans misdirect their energies and passions whenever a crisis occurs. For example, the shrieking call for anti-gun legislation after the tragic murder of five school children by a Neanderthal criminal in Stockton, California. Or when the late Ayatollah Khomeini threatened the life of British writer, Salman Rushdie because of his controversial book, *Satanic Verses*. What happened after the Khomeini threat was the removal of Rushdie's book from the bookstore shelves around the world. Yet, what should have happened was the removal of the "madman" Ayatollah.

If a criminal commits murder, the guilty should be neutralized as an equal payment for his crime. Guns like any other non-living object cannot jump up and kill innocent victims. It takes a thug to commit such an atrocity. Misguided passions always produce more problems than there were in the beginning. That will be the case if the gun control lobbyist succeeds in gaining laws banning the right for citizens to bear arms and defend their families, homes, and themselves.

Meanwhile those against gun ownership point out the many Americans murdered by gunshot wounds annually. Still, they somehow overlook and never mention the millions of attempted criminal acts, including rapes, murders, and robberies that are prevented because the potential law abiding victims had guns to protect themselves. Lawmakers must be made to realize that criminals must be put away from society. In addition, the right to own and bear arms must remain intact! If not America will soon be the land of the intimidated, the home of the slave. -- I'm Ron Edwards

- An area resident, Ron Edwards' radio commentaries are heard in other market areas. He would appreciate your comments and may be reached at the Edwards Notebook, P.O. Box 315274, Detroit, MI 48231.

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OPINION

CANADA'S 'FREE' HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AILING

- *The Dominion's Compassion Is Mostly on Paper*
by Lawrence Reed

Is Canada's health care system a model the U.S. should copy? As Americans wrestle with problems of rising costs and affordability here, some are casting longing eyes north of the border where health care is almost "free" for everybody. But as with most alleged pinnacles, closer examination suggests that the hoopla over Canada's system is too good to be true.

Hospital patients in Canada pick up little or none of the cost of their care, with the federal and provincial governments paying the freight. (Actually since government has no money to give anybody except what it first takes from somebody, this really means that every Canadian taxpayer picks up the tab.) On paper at least, Canadians have access "without charge" to the physician of their choice. Most tests and treatments are also "free." So are the services of specialists, as well as any ensuing cost of surgery or hospital visits if recommended by the general practitioner.

Too many commentaries in the U.S. press concentrate on this "free" part of our northerly neighbor's system, and neglect to mention the shortcomings. One notable exception was an article in the *Detroit Free Press* last April 30, 1989 by Tom Jones, who wrote, "Angered and frustrated by delays that can exceed a year, some patients are taking their problems to Detroit and other U.S. border cities for prompt, albeit expensive, treatment."

Jones pointed out that "some heart patients question whether they'll live long enough to get on the operating table." In fact, quite a few don't. William Watts of Toronto,

76, died last January after his scheduled heart surgery was postponed nine times because nurses and beds were unavailable. He never got any, but at least it was "free."

Michael Walker, executive director of a Vancouver-based think tank known as the Fraser Institute, has just authored a revealing dissection of health care in Canada. It was published recently by the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., under the title, "Why Canada's Health Care System is No Cure for America's Ills."

"Angered and frustrated by delays that can exceed a year, some patients are taking their problems to Detroit..."

- Terry Jones, *Detroit Free Press*

Basic economics tells us that when government intervenes and makes a valuable good or service available for almost nothing, demand goes up and supply goes down. To deal with that problem, Walker shows, the Canadian government has rigidly controlled physician fees, limited the introduction of new technology and curtailed the availability of certain services. It imposes "a virtual monopoly system on Canadians, prohibiting private insurance for most services and leaving most doctors with no alternative but to work in the government-controlled system."

Predictably, medical care in Canada is becoming increasingly politicized. The government is less interested in any particular fee it must

pay than it is in the total share of the national budget that must be allocated to the medical care system. Long waiting lists and extensive rationing are natural results. The poor are stuck with the indifferent bureaucracy while the better off can go elsewhere, particularly the U.S. That's why the Canadian boast that Canada spends just 8.5 percent of its GNP on health care while by comparison the U.S. spends 11 percent of its GNP is very misleading.

Walker cites a number of alarming shortages in Canada that should cause Americans to think twice before they rush to emulate the Canadian system. The city of Seattle (with a population of half a million) has more CAT scanners than the entire Canadian province of British Columbia (population, 3 million). There are more NMR imaging machines -- the latest powerful diagnostic tool -- in Washington state than in all of Canada. In Newfoundland, it now takes two months to get an "urgent" pap smear to detect cervical cancer. Long waiting lists in Toronto force the city's Hospital for Sick Children to send home 40 children who need heart surgery, and that was just for the month of January 1989.

Crippling strikes in Canada's monopolized system are ever more common. In 1988 nurses in Alberta shut down that province's entire system for six weeks. Work slowdowns and stoppages by employees of the system and even physicians themselves have cut services to some degree in nearly every province.

Incredibly, American patients who go to Canada with the right number of dollars get treated immediately as private patients for the same ailments Canadians -- to next page

have to wait in line to get treatment for. Though Americans can buy good and prompt care in Canada, Walker states, "Canadians cannot because that would be regarded as 'extra billing,' which is not permitted under the National Health Act."

America's health care system has its problems, but I for one don't want to trade them for Canada's problems even if they are "free".

-- Lawrence Reed is president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Midland, Michigan.

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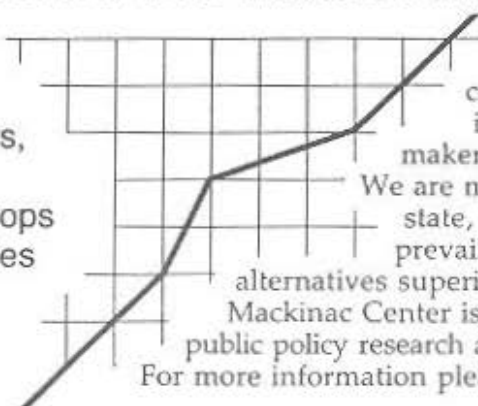
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REFLECTION

exerpts from "The Wright Tapes" or Midnight Confessions of a Libertarian Road Warrior

You're Michigan's perennial activist. You're still warm from the glow of the week's Earth Day celebrations. But right now it's Saturday night in Southfield; yes, right in the middle of Libertarian Party's annual state convention, and it's reality test time. What would be your thoughts? Brian Wright (on open mike) reflects on his own pilgrimage and the day's events.

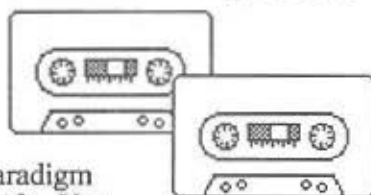
First *real* day of spring, grass is green, trees are budding.

Read article in paper on Big Green in California authored by Tom Hayden and some other socialist buddies of his. Boy, how do you carve out a libertarian world view dealing with this mess? But more important, at least more to the point, how do you do that and make it sell, make it popular, goad it into effect? Well, Virginia's got a good convention going for sure, lotta good guests. I'm just comin' along as a mechanic, essentially, and put my two cents in trying to write up a resolution, maybe, on the environment.

One thought I had is: You gotta fight for liberty, but you also gotta live. Freedom is not obvious, except of course in the sense of doing what we wish, but the objective condition of political freedom is a long-range necessity, and if you make it happen, there will be short-range problems as the distortions work their way out. Those who have supported, been part of, or benefited from the distortions have to be overcome by those who realize the general benefit of freedom. We really are stuck with the requirement that a healthy society have individuals who are interested and capable of thinking in long-range terms. Not incredible intelligence, but at least a sense that reality is important, absolute, real, not

arbitrary, not subject to one's whims, and *there* after tomorrow.

Okay? In the early days of the country, we did good. You had your witch-burners, sure, but they got lost in the shuffle. The good ideas won out for a while. Now, this is before we had liberal guilt and all the modern industrial versions of collectivism I guess. I don't know how you can sell the beauty of the libertarian idea, the beauty of political freedom, if you will, without dislodging the bad psychology. Which requires the proverbial "paradigm shift," right, a good one.



Paradigm shift. Um.

The model has to change, but there are certain elements of the previous model that are very subtle, to have been able to stroke people who would embrace what we'll call "benevolent collectivism." In the long run we realize, though, that if people are allowed to live as parasites then it's harder for us who don't like that approach. So there has to be a fight.

What about this weekend? I support the Party. I want it to be an alternative for voters, be a means by which the culture transitions.

Missed the Randy Barnett presentation last night on the Ninth Amendment, the one that creatures of the state like to conveniently forget, since it makes freedom the default condition. Heard it was superb ... Beautiful day, beautiful day for a convention.

Luncheon for Lou Schimmel. Some noteworthies: Littmann, Reed, Margaret O'Connor; Hampton introduces L.S. Like Gary Cooper in High Noon, caused Ecorse politicians a significant amount of hurt. Had Mayor's car towed; brave, smart guy. Can we do this in Detroit?

In business session, the statewide offices, Richard Whitelock chairing, and district caucuses, wrangling, got it done though. E.g. Mary Ruwart unanimous, only one on ballot, but Jones has to have written ballots. Good ol' Rules 'R' Us Tom; blessed art the rule-makers for they shall make life seem like eternity.

Larry Reed next, and his *Indiana Jones* Tour, especially his observation about Cambodia, how it had come back from one of the worst holocausts in history, in so short a time, simply because of the functioning of the market. Reed, of Mackinac Center, an incredible human being, no notes, witty, humorous, serious, energetic.

Banquet. Dick Jacobs looking healthy, thanks to not acquiescing to DAMN GOVERNMENT RULES. Rose, Jack, Bette, many other of our friends at the tables. Whitelock's talkin' now. Vince Miller speaks about the great things happening all over the world, especially in South America and South Africa -- Leon Louw has been conducting classes in free market stuff and graduating thousands of the hardest core ANC guys, among others.... Miller

lacks fire as speaker, unfortunately, for the big-time punch of his message.

After the talk, I spoke with Tim, discussed the impounding of Stan's car [see "Witness" article this issue -- ed], the closeness of the incident in terms of violent activity, reminds Tim of the anti-war movement, I know there have to be a lot of differences but my mind isn't that big to figure them out at the moment. Tim has done dynamite Earth Day resolution already, so saves me the effort.

Also talked with Keith at length about what it was like for me to be chair, what he could look forward to, my opinions, need for reasonable parliamentary understanding and leadership, structured assemblies, no need judicial committee, the need to keep the peace between major factions; it's not something he wanted to do. It isn't something I wanted to do back then (1980, 83, 84) either, but then I had a lot of energy; Keith has a lot of fine qualities that are different from mine, more professional.

Well, I noticed about 9:00 p.m., when we ran out of beer, and Emily was going to go out and get some, that I wasn't really comfortable with her going out by herself at that hour in this neighborhood that was probably marginal. You see people, the street people, you can feel the street coming up.

When we got to the store, the door was busted and hanging at an angle, and I had to walk in at an angle, too, because it wouldn't move. An old ethnic of sorts, Jewish or Lebanese or something, in this urban no-man's zone and someone tells him that a guy just ripped something off from the back. When we came back, one guy in a car was yelling at two guys in another car, not giving

ground. There were certainly people in the hotel parking lot out there who crawl from under the rock, drug laws rock, people standing around, parked in cars, waiting, while the shooters walk in and out of glitzy bar. You know you can tell, even if you grow up in Kansas, you know these things....but like the two older parties, a lot of Libertarian Party members for the most part are not that familiar with the seedier side of life.

And others are keeping their heads above the water pretty well and dealing with a number of problems presented by the rulers, the ruling class, yeah right, it seems like such a lopsided battle right now, and that's part of the gutwrenching problem.

I feel it now, the way the state brings up the bad guys and pushes the good guys under -- every tax, every state program, all the regulations, the land grabs, the wretched and corrupt acts of mixed-economy hacks. Decent people see/feel the government ravages in the streets. And then the intellectuals have disarmed them, too, fooled them into thinking in the standard and controlled ways -- the state-schooled Democrats and Republicans. Real poor protection from their peers who are more brutally consistent -- echoes of *Clockwork Orange*, doing the dirty work of their craven mentors. So again I figure

I'm doing my part for society tonight, and I'll do more tomorrow, and resolve to do what I can to lift the veil of ignorance, so to speak, and continue to try to show people how easy it all can be if they start thinking and drop guns.

Anyway I don't know if I've battled very hard in a lot of ways, but I sure have in the past, I think with some naivete, but also with a certain amount of style. Maybe if people knew that libertarians are people too. So what do I do now? Continue in thoughtful ways to master the anger and reach out... otherwise ride hard and live free.

Brian's complete unabridged manuscript (due to its length, it was heavily excerpted) is available for \$2:00 and a SASE. Write to: Brian Wright, 6689 Orchard Lake Road, #249, West Bloomfield, MI 48332.

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