

Open LETTER:

October 1994

Why Vote Libertarian?

Opinion By Mark Owen

Mark Owen is an Economics instructor and the mid Michigan coordinator of the Coon for Senate campaign.

The Libertarian Party is America's third largest party. For a quarter century, Libertarians have presented the American people with the option of a party that represents liberty, limited government; and the rights of the American people to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Libertarians oppose an America based on coercion, mandates, and dependence. If America is to remain free, Americans must remain at liberty to succeed or "fail." Libertarians refuse to just sit back and allow the government to turn the people into a big herd that is managed from Washington. The time is now... and the Libertarian Party is the only party pledged to protect your rights as free Americans.

The two majority party have been in power since before the Civil War. They have maintained their monopoly on power, being more concerned with its retention than standing for any firm principles or defending our own Constitution. The results have been disheartening. The FED was created in 1913, giving the government the ability to much more easily manipulate the nation's money and culminating in the eventual removal of all backing to the dollar. The result has been consistent inflation. In that same year, the income tax went into effect for the first time. The government's influence in our lives has grown geometrically ever since.

Government intervention helped deepen the Great Depression.

FDR made it possible to run consistent budget deficits by taking us off the gold standard, and began the erosion of the Second Amendment in 1934, a precedent that has brought us to this point, where we must fight for our Constitutional rights before they are lost forever. Johnson's "War on Poverty" has only created more poverty, broken families, misery, and dependence. Nixon's wage and price controls were useless in fighting inflation, as was Ford's "Whip Inflation Now (WIN)" campaign, since it was the government printing of money that was causing the inflation.

Carter's energy programs were a disaster, costing billions, not to mention the rest of his inept administration. Reagan promised a balanced budget, but never made a stand against exploding congressional spending. With the support of 34 senators, he could have vetoed any budget and made it stick. Bush signed the largest tax increase in history to that date, only to be topped by Clinton. Government continues to take more of what we produce, and they are trying to take control of an even larger portion of our lives. Your living standard falls as the government takes an ever larger slice of your income and your employer's ability to expand. This nightmare must stop before our America becomes an unrecognizable socialist/facist nightmare.

Libertarians will not compromise their values to win elections. Libertarians stand up to those who want to take away your freedom. The Libertarian Party is quickly becoming a real force in American politics, and the only choice that can turn the tide against an increasingly intrusive government.

Who You Can Vote For:

Voters who live anywhere in Michigan will be able to cast a ballot for Jon Coon for US Senate, and for many Libertarian candidates for statewide education positions, as well. Educator Erwin J Haas and lawyer David H Raaflaub are on the ballot for the State Board of Education, and Thomas W Jones and Brian Wright are candidates for the Wayne State University Board of Governors. On two other college boards, all Michigan voters will have the ability to vote for engineer Ben Bachrach and author Dr Mary J Ruwart for Michigan State University Board of Trustees, and for Gary R Bradley and LPM Vice-Chair Emily Salvette for the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Particular to the mid-Michigan area, residents of the US House of Representatives 8th district (Ingham, Livingston, etc. counties) will be able to vote for Libertarian Gerald Ralph Turcotte, Jr over Republican Dick Chrysler and Democrat Bob Mitchell. Voters in US House district 7 (Eaton, Calhoun, Jackson, etc. counties) can vote for Libertarian Kenneth L Proctor over Democrat Kim McCaughtry and incumbent Republican Nick Smith.

"The Libertarian Party is the only choice to turn the tide against increasingly intrusive government."

:Mark Owen

Keep guns legal

The right to own a gun is just as paramount as the right to free speech. The evidence is there in the fact that the First and Second Amendments were the very first two provided. Each one to ensure the other.

Today, a gun may not be desired or needed, but what about the future? Anti-gunners may well be glad that others have their guns and that they learned how to use them beforehand.

Don't you wonder how many people in Yugoslavia have had that feeling? But that couldn't happen here, could it?

It is only the state-of-mind of the governing power factions that may cause or prevent it.

My vote will protect my future and yours.

Your gun-control vote will jeopardize your future and mine.

STEPHEN A. VAN DEVENTER,
Lansing

Try life in Cuba

How would you like to live in a place where there are no guns — health care is "free" — housing is "free" — education is "free" — sound good?

That place exists — it's called CUBA!

HELEN CHRISTY POWERS,
Williamston

Founding fathers wise

Zealotry oft leads to self-deception, as displayed in James J. Jackson's recent "Voices." He confuses the initial paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, which does refer to a Creator, with the Preamble of the Constitution, which does not. That error is common, and taken by itself would be excusable.

But Jackson asserts, "The Constitution says that our rights are endowed by our Creator..." This claim is false. None of us can know what the founding fathers thought, but we do know what they did: They excluded any reference to God in the Constitution. Perhaps they recognized in religion the potential for good when adopted in the private sphere and the potential for evil when imposed in the public sphere.

DONALD J. MONTGOMERY,
Okemos

Crime bill may work

The Aug. 31 political cartoon suggested that though the crime bill puts 20,000, not 10,000 cops, on the street, "maybe someday it'll keep a cop off the street" (meaning, by picture, alive instead of gunned down on the street).

Let's examine that.

The FBI uniform crime report states that less than half of one percent of all firearms crimes are committed using so-called assault weapons. Further, the bill is to be partially funded by cuts in other programs, including the FBI and Drug Enforcement Agency!

Sounds like the bill may keep criminals off the street.

ROLAND M. HESS,
East Lansing

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Both parties missing boat

Democrats constantly seize more taxes for their inept programs. Republicans continue their ridiculous war on drugs. Democrats want our weapons, leaving us at the mercy of criminals and overzealous governmental agencies. Republicans would invade women's bodies. Democrats would socialize health care. Republicans want to deny us our right to die. Democrats back a failed school system. Republicans preach intolerance. Both endorse censorship.

As government, due to both parties, keeps growing our human rights diminish. To become a safer, less taxed and more responsible country, we must tell government to keep out of our recreations, pocketbooks, homes, bedrooms and bodies.

CARL THORNTON,
St. Johns

Take a bite out of 'pork'

I must again complain about the news media's coverage of issues. Why are we not told just what is in the crime bill? We see reference to jails and additional police, but how about all the pork and social programs? Break this down so we can understand.

I agree with the recent Gannett News Service poll mentioned. I also doubt this bill will reduce crime. Anything that the Democratic party and Slick Willie agree on must be full of pork. Is this why the media do not want to inform the reader? It seems clear that we are continuing to cover for our Washington socialists.

I note Congressman Bob Carr thinks this is a good bill. That ought to convince anyone who is on the fence that it will do no good. Carr supports only big government bills.

P.A. BENNETT,
St. Johns,

Voters do get it

In a recent editorial, the Lansing State Journal "suspects" that some voters "didn't get it" when a request for 18 mills on non-homestead property was soundly defeated by voters in the Carson City-Crystal School District.

On the contrary. Voters did indeed "get it," and acted in a courageous and principled manner. The voters said that they did not wish to approve a 3-mill enhancement request, and also did not wish to impose a tax on others that they would not pay themselves.

In soundly rejecting the non-homestead millage for the second time, the voters demonstrated that they will not be bullied, and demonstrated that they have the integrity to refuse a free opportunity to soak others with higher taxes.

In other school districts that have already voted on similar proposals, substantial numbers of voters were eager to impose an 18-mill tax on others while unwilling to vote 3 mills out of their own pockets. Apparently, the Lansing State Journal would have preferred such a result to the actual outcome.

In Carson City-Crystal, only about 21 out of more than 1,700 voters chose this unethical option.

FRANK LESSA,
Lansing

An OPEN Invitation:

The LAMM meets the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be:

Thursday, October 13 at Sneekers Restaurant, 600 N Homer, across from the Frandor Shopping Plaza, off US-127, in Lansing. People usually begin to arrive, and dinner can be ordered around 6:30. The meeting begins at 7:00.

The program at the October meeting will include a video by 1988 Presidential candidate Ron Paul, entitled "By Any Other Name." This video is a recent production of the National Endowment for Liberty, and addresses the way politicians use labels and names to define, conceal, and evade election issues.

It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable program... hope to see you there!

NOTICE: The Michigan Property Owners Association will be convening for a meeting at the Hoffman House Restaurant in the Best Western Midway Motor Lodge in Lansing. The meeting will be November 12, 1994 from 10am to 6pm, and will cover individual sovereignty and commercial liens against elected officials who violate the constitution. For more information, contact John Tellier at 485-6720.

Speak UP!

You are invited to send in your thoughts, comments, and Open LETTERS on any topic pertaining to public policy, individual liberty, personal responsibility, or free market economics. Your ideas will be printed with little or no editing, and shared with hundreds of people in the mid-Michigan area.

If you are a member of a group working towards increasing liberty or shaping political policy, send in updates about what you are doing... there are many others who may like to join you.

Open LETTER is edited and laid out in the Freedom Reading Room by Michael Emhart. Printing is paid for by Liberty Coins. Postage is paid for by Jon Addiss. The views printed here are not necessarily the opinions of the editor or sponsors, although most Interested Parties probably do agree!

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The Libertarian Alliance of Mid-Michigan was founded in 1981 to promote ideas that support and enhance personal freedom, free market economics, and political liberty. The LAMM is not responsible to any other group that calls itself "libertarian." The LAMM is run without officers for the benefit of those who attend its meetings. For information about the LAMM, call Jon Addiss at 517/394-0122.

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■ Lansing State Journal
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YOUR OPINIONS

We don't belong in Haiti

The Declaration of Independence clearly tells us that "governments are instituted among men" to secure the rights to life, liberty, and property, and that "whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people... it is their duty to throw off such government."

These words are as true in another nation today as they were in America two centuries ago.

If the present government of Haiti is oppressing the rights of the Haitian people, it is their right and duty to "alter or abolish it and to institute a new government." It is NOT the right or the duty of the president of the United States, the United Nations, or any multi-national armed force to invade and overthrow the leadership of any other country.

When the people of Haiti consider the evils they suffer to be insufferable, they will rise to the task and "provide new guards for their future security." This is the only way such a change can be legitimately carried out.

MICHAEL EMHART,
Lansing

"It is not the right or the duty of the president to invade and overthrow any other country."
:Michael Emhart

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Applications for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." This does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.

Signature: _____

Additional Interests:

- ☐ Running for office
- ☐ Hosting a meeting
- ☐ Speaking to groups
- ☐ Other _____

- ☐ Working on a campaign
- ☐ Assisting with the newsletter
- ☐ Advertising in the newsletter

■ LAMM

Next LAMM Meeting: Thursday, October 13, 1994

Program Includes Video On "Political Name Games."

(Details Inside...)

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