



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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PROTESTERS DRAW ATTENTION

April 15 again marked a very successful tax protest day for Libertarian Party groups in Michigan and across the U.S.

The event, coordinated by Ed Jowett nationally and Joe Overton in Michigan, was an effort to draw attention to both the disastrous and ever increasing levels of taxation and also to let people know that the Libertarian Party is working to reverse this trend.

Libertarian Party groups in Kalamazoo, Flint, Lansing, Jackson, Port Huron, and several places in the Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne county area, all participated in the event. The largest protest took place Friday night at 11:00 p.m. when about 100 libertarians from the tri-county area converged on the Detroit central post office to picket and pass out flyers.

The most media attention, however, was given to the Lady Godiva ride sponsored by the Kalamazoo area libertarians, where an unidentified rider clad only in a body suit rode through downtown Kalamazoo during the noon hour. The event was organized by Kala-



LIBERTARIAN LADY GODIVA STOPS TRAFFIC IN KALAMAZOO

mazoo County LP Chair Sheryl Loux, and drew coverage in several Michigan newspapers and television stations, and Associated Press photographs appeared in papers as far away as Denver, Colorado and Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to the tremendous media coverage, the group succeeded in distributing over 3000 flyers. Inquiries are still being received at LPM Headquar-

ters from people responding to the flyers and asking for more information on the Libertarian Party.

Nationally, protests were held in over 200 cities. Two things that have made this event a traditional success are the ease of coordinating a protest and also the excellent response from the last minute filers to the Libertarian message.

CONVENTION UPDATE

Recent additions to the line up of speakers should make this 1983 State Convention one of the most exciting and informative ever!

In addition to 1982 LPM candidate for governor Dick Jacobs, David Boaz, Vice President of Public Policy of the Cato Institute and David Friedman, of the UCLA economics department and author of The Machinery of Freedom, will also be speaking at the Convention.

Most of the business and talks will take place on Saturday, so if you can't make it for the entire weekend, consider driving up for just the day.

If you would like to come to the convention but don't want to make the drive alone (or need a ride), contact Joe Overton at LPM Headquarters for names of people in your area who either need rides or riders. □

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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
OF THE
LIBERTARIAN PARTY

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual; namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Editor: Joseph P. Overton

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Letters-to-the-editor and other articles submitted for publication should be typewritten and signed. Advertising is available at \$2 per column-inch for camera-ready copy and must be submitted by the 20th day of the month preceding the desired issue.



Libertarian
Party of
Michigan

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is a statewide organization of individuals dedicated to the preservation of individual rights and the advancement of freedom through political action. The Central Committee consists of two representatives from each congressional district and five members at large.

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GUEST COLUMN

Taxation Violates Individual Rights

by George Leef

In a letter published in the March 22 Midland Daily News, Mr. W. P. Kelly takes issue with my contention that taxation is theft.

Evidently he takes it to be the case that the supposed benefits a citizen receives from the government justifies its confiscating his property.

This is a serious issue, and I am glad that the Midland Daily News provides a forum for its discussion. I believe it can be shown that, notwithstanding his 43 years of high school teaching, Mr. Kelly is in error.

One of the first principles of modern economic theory is that value is subjective. That is, whether a good or service is valuable to a person, and how much so, depends on the person himself. We cannot objectively measure the value of anything-- it depends on the individual's own scale of values. Therefore, no outside observer can say whether any good or service is in fact beneficial (worth the cost) to someone else.

Mr. Kelly may think that the "services" of the government are beneficial to him, but he has no warrant for asserting that they must be so for everyone else.

My contention is this: All of the services provided by the Michigan government could be provided by businesses or other non-coercive institutions operating in the open market. Yes, that is anarchism, and I find it entirely defensible. (There is a fairly extensive literature on this subject. If the reader is interested, I suggest David Friedman's "The Machinery of Freedom" or Murry Rothbard's "For A New Liberty.")

If these services were offered for sale in this manner, no one would be compelled to purchase unwanted services, or to purchase more than was desired. But with

government, there is no connection between your desires and the taxes you pay. You are forced to "purchase" the entire range of inefficiently provided services which the state offers, regardless of how little they may be worth to you.

Consider, for example, public education. Through taxes, I am forced to support this service even though I have no children, and think that public education is actually harmful to me. (How? Because on the whole, public schools poorly prepare students for the college courses I teach, making my job more onerous.)

There is no reason why education has to be provided by the government, and if it weren't, no one who didn't want this service

Those interested in being the Guest Columnist should submit their articles for consideration by the 20th day of the month preceeding the next month's issue.

would be compelled to help finance it. Grocery stores should not be allowed to make you buy products you don't want or even make you sick, and neither should government.

It is useful to liken government operations to those of an extortion ring. The extorters visit a business owner and tell him he must buy "protection" and perhaps other services from them. Declining the services is not allowed, nor is buying from a competitor. Failure to pay the set high price will cause a visit from an enforcer who will try to collect peacefully if possible (but with a penalty for inconveniencing them), but by force if need be.

Now it may well be true that the extorters actually deliver their services. They really do protect against rival thieves-- they don't want others exploiting "their" client. And perhaps the extorters even spend some of the money they have taken from him in the owner's store, thus conferring some "benefits" on him. But none of this alters the fact that a serious wrong has been done to the store owner.

I submit that there is no morally important distinction between the acts of the extortion ring and the acts of the government. The government, too, 'sells' its inefficient monopoly services to people who are given no choice

but to "pay" for them. Like the extorters, the government varies its "price" based upon the individual's ability to pay. The more you have, the more they take away.

And like the extorters, the government threatens to do you harm if you don't go along with their racket. Fail to pay the taxes they say you "owe" and you'll first be politely asked to pay (plus a penalty for inconvenience) and if you persist in not paying, violence will ultimately be used to deprive you of your property (and maybe your liberty, too).

The standard reply to this analysis is that the government is different from an extortion gang because it is elected. Supposedly the acts of the state are morally justified because the citizen is "allowed his say." He is permitted to cast one vote out of thousands or millions for someone to "represent" him, and therefore should not be heard to complain when the state treats him in the manner just discussed. He is held to have "consented" -- irrespective of whether or how he voted -- since he "had a say."

But when people have rights (as to life, liberty and property), they are entitled to more than a say. They are entitled to THE say.

If you own a house, you are entitled to more than a say in how that house is to be used. You are entitled to make the decision. That entitlement is in no way affected by the votes of others.

That is my case against taxation. It is an unnecessary and unjustified violation of individual rights. □

George Leef is a professor of economics at Northwood Institute in Midland, MI.

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PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE

by A.P. Bollman

The Libertarian Party is reaching a new stage in its development. Throughout this last decade it has firmly established itself as the major third party in the United States. At the same time, there are still a great many people with libertarian attitudes who are not aware of the party's existence. Because of this, it is not unreasonable to expect the election of Libertarians to state and national offices in the United States within the next decade.

It is highly unlikely, however, that Libertarians will be elected in such massive numbers that they will be able to legislate the entire Libertarian Party platform into existence overnight. Because of

this, Libertarians elected to office will have to decide which government programs to fight first. To do otherwise might result in some disastrous policies and a total loss of credibility for the party, with nothing left to prevent the march of the United States stateward.

For instance, a logical thing for a Libertarian freshly elected to office to do might seem to be to take action against government unemployment insurance and welfare. However, as long as the government is taking action to ensure that unemployment stays at a certain level through such policies as minimum wage, it only makes sense for a Libertarian to battle those first. Once those have been eliminated, the Libertarian will be able to turn his attention to welfare, and will probably be more successful in his battle, since there will be fewer truly deserving peo-

ple on the public dole.

In the same vein, to work for open borders is an admirable ambition, and well within the Libertarian tradition. This, however, is impossible for a welfare state to do. As long as the U.S. provides extensive welfare, to throw open the borders would be to issue an invitation to everyone in the world who is looking for three meals a day and a place to sleep without doing any work.

There are other ways that the Libertarian Party must establish its priorities, but the most important thing is for Libertarians to establish their priorities now, instead of waiting until it becomes necessary. □

Arthur Bollman is a journalism major at Michigan State University.

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BALLOT PETITIONS FILED

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has filed over 24,500 signatures with the State Elections Department to regain ballot status that was lost in the 1982 General Election.

We are presently waiting for the State Board of Canvassers to meet and give official approval.

Although short of our goal of 30,000 signatures, the number submitted should still give a comfortable margin for error over the 20,000 valid signatures required. Details on the petition drive will appear in next month's Michigan Libertarian. Thanks to all those who helped out! □

MONTHLY 50/50 RAFFLE

The Libertarian Party of Michigan Monthly 50/50 Raffle is still going strong. The winner of the second drawing was Jay Schwartz of Southfield, Joe Cote' of Birmingham selling the winning ticket. The receipts for this month's raffle were up form last month to \$306.00

Remember, this is a free raffle; anyone may send in the enclosed tickets to enter. However, donations of \$1.00 per ticket will be cheerfully accepted to go toward the LPM operating fund. □

LIBERTARIAN?



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WHERE ARE WE GOING?

by Dick Whitelock

On the 1983 political scene, the Libertarian Party could well be described as the USFL (United States Football League) of politics.

Challenging the established pro's of the Republican and Democratic parties will be no easy task. But, nobody promised us a rose garden. Right?

I look at it this way; It's like chipping away at a concrete wall with a toothpick. The process started slowly and seemed like a frustrating attempt at a totally futile undertaking. The toothpicks kept breaking and nothing seemed to be happening.

Suddenly a small indentation started to appear. Through sheer determination and dedication to a cause, the chips started to fly faster and they became larger. Soon, the small indentation grew to large enough proportions so that a feeling of accomplishment could be realized.

What is it that keeps dedicated Libertarians going? Are they going to keep chipping away at a mass of seemingly unpenetrable concrete with toothpicks? What is it that they are trying to accomplish?

THERE'S FREEDOM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DAMN WALL . . . AND WE INTEND TO GET THERE!!

Dedication to a cause. That's what all dedicated Libertarians are involved in. Freedom is our intended goal. The toothpicks have been the initial efforts of Libertarian Party movements throughout the nation over the past decade.

The concrete wall that was constructed during 100 years of Republican and Democratic political chicanery is beginning to crumble. The ingredients they used in their mixture; Ballot access laws; Taxation; Manipulation; Constitutional violations; Corruption; Regulations and trickery, have revealed numerous flaws. They have become vulnerable.

As Libertarians, it's time for us to exchange our toothpicks for pick-axes. The pick-axes will become our educational tools. For each and every American citizen who is educated to libertarianism, another tremendous chunk will fall from the wall of political demagoguery.

We cannot rest . . . Time is

not our ally. The edges of our educational pick-axes must remain sharp. More and more dedicated people must go to the wall of oppression until freedom is visible.

As the hole in the wall becomes larger, Libertarians will be the first to enjoy the freedoms they have worked so hard and diligently for. Once the opening has been made, all Americans will be able to follow. Millions of over-taxed, over-burdened, over-regulated, and under-classed people will be allowed to experience a freedom they never knew existed.

In order to accomplish the ultimate Libertarian goal of freedom, we must first establish additional goals for ourselves. Education and numbers will be the key ingredients. We must educate many millions who have been mired in the political wall that was erected by the Republicans and Democrats. We must educate many more millions who have been floundering about in a sea of

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what they thought was independency.

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That's the only way we're ever going to realize the freedom we so desperately desire. Accept the challenge . . . Remember . . . THERE'S FREEDOM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DAMN WALL! □

Dick Whiteoace is Chairman of the Ionia County Libertarian Party.

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RIDES TO THE CONVENTION!!

Anyone needing a ride to the convention or having room for riders should contact LPM headquarters. Traverse City is about a 4 hour drive from Detroit; save money and help more people get to the convention by pooling rides.

Joe Overton, current LPM Director, will be returning to Michigan Technological University to complete work on his degree starting this September. Anyone interested in applying for the position of Director on either a full or part time basis should contact LPM headquarters.

Several LPM members have expressed interest in constructing billboards advertising the Libertarian Party along well traveled streets or freeways. If you have land that the Party could use in this way, or know someone who does, please contact LPM headquarters. This would be a relatively inexpensive way to give the Libertarian Party greater name recognition.

AVAILABLE FROM LPM HEADQUARTERS

- Libertarian Party Platform \$1.00 each
- LP Question and Answer Brochure \$.20 each
- "Vote Libertarian" License Plates \$5.00 each
- "Legalize Freedom/ Vote Libertarian" \$.50 each

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CALENDAR

The State Central Committee will be meeting Sunday, May 22 at the Holiday Inn on the Lake in Traverse City at 10:30 a.m. This will be the first meeting of the newly elected SCC.

The Jackson County Libertarian Party meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Hall of Fame room at the Summit Lanes Bowling Alley in Vandercook Lake. The meeting time is 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jerry Potts at (517) 787-3559.

THE MACOMB COUNTY LP meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Harvest Table Restaurant, Van Dyke and 15 Mile Rd. in Warren. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Virginia Cropsey.

THE WAYNE COUNTY LP meets on the first Monday of every month at Christoff's Public House, 13736 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn. Meetings begin at 7:45 p.m. For more information, contact Mart Hillard.

THE MIDLAND COUNTY LP meets regularly at the Grace Dow Library in Midland. The meetings feature libertarian speakers addressing a variety of topics. For more information, contact Janet Parkes at (517) 631-9737.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Uncle John's Pancake House in Birmingham. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Joe Cote' for more information.

THE METRO DETROIT LIBERTARIANS meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Howard Johnson's Restaurant at 10 mile Road and Northwestern in Southfield. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30. For more information, contact Keith Edwards.

THE WASHTENAW COUNTY LP and the Ann Arbor Libertarian League meet every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the basement of Dominic's Restaurant in Ann Arbor. For more information, contact Jim Greenshields or Glenn Mensching.

KALAMAZOO AREA LIBERTARIANS (KAL) will be starting libertarian philosophy discussion group meetings right away.

For times and locations, contact Sheryl Loux at (616) 343-4737

Meetings and events of LP organizations, or groups of interest to Libertarians, will be announced free of charge. Send your message to: MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN, 112 W. Allegan, Lansing, Mich., 48933. Announcement of activities does not necessarily imply LPM endorsement.

DIRECTORY

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Ingham County LP	Mike Stein	(517) 482-6905	Wayne County LP	Mart Hillard	(313) 873-4866

LAISSEZ FAIRE

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- **FREEDOM FOR ALASKANS** by Richard L. (Dick) Randolph. The 1982 Libertarian gubernatorial candidate gives his blueprint for rolling back the State in Alaska. Randolph, the first Libertarian State Legislator in the country, was responsible for repealing his state's income tax. (pb, 108p) \$ 3.95
- **SOCIAL SECURITY: AVERTING THE CRISIS** by Peter Ferrera. Shows that social security has been established and maintained by deceit. Includes a detailed presentation on how to get out of the system. (qpb, 160p) \$ 6.95
- **PROGRESS AND PRIVILEGE: America in the Age of Environmentalism** by William Tucker. Argues that environmentalists, who like to think of themselves as liberals, have in reality used the movement to protect the status quo at the expense of less-privileged classes. By exposing how they have distorted the issues to serve their own purposes, Tucker reveals why many problems, though serious, are soluable. (hd, 314p) \$17.95
- **A NEW BEGINNING** by Ed Clark. Presents a basic overview of the libertarian approach to the pressing problems facing our nation. By the 1980 Libertarian Party presidential candidate. (qpb, 135p) \$ 4.00
- **TOMORROW, CAPITALISM** by Henri LePage. Already translated into six languages and a bestseller in France and Sweden, this is one of the most controversial books in Europe today. Describes the recent revolution in economics toward the free market. Argues that the science of economics has been reshaped into a coherent, comprehensive approach to the study of human problems. (hd 254p) \$14.95
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- **THE TWELVE YEAR SENTENCE: Radical Views of Compulsory Education**, Edited by William Rickenbacker. A major attack on compulsory education from authors who range across the political spectrum. A legal and general bibliography make this an invaluable tool. (hd, 236p) \$14.50

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