



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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LPM Petition Would Slash Taxes

In a press release dated July 4, the LPM announced a petition drive which, if successful, will put on the November 1984 ballot a severe reduction in the State's taxing power.

The "Public Vote" petition would amend the Michigan Constitution to:

- *Require voter approval for all new taxes, state and local;
- *Require all such taxes to expire in at most four years;
- *Limit the taxes permissible to those types specified in the State Constitution;
- *Prohibit state and local income taxes, and;
- *Define the state and local fiscal year.

The only taxes that would be permitted by this amendment are liquor, excise, sales, and use taxes, along with specific and ad valorem property taxes. Among those prohibited would be the Single Business Tax, which effectively penalizes new business startups and contributes to unemployment and the deterioration of Michigan's business climate.

Although agreeing with the intention of the "Headlee" or "Voter's Choice" petition, which calls for public vote for any increase or shift in taxes, the LPM found that initiative to be too limited. While requiring that future tax changes be approved by voters, it does nothing to reduce the present stifling

level of taxation (except limiting non-resident local income taxes to 1/2 of 1%).

This petition drive represents a tremendous opportunity to publicize the Libertarian Party and to associate it more strongly with the

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Opportunity Awaits

Only one Libertarian has yet won a contested partisan race in the U.S. (excepting Alaska). If for no other reason, the upcoming opportunity to run for city positions in November is important! These are offices which, for the Democrats and Republicans, are not worth committing more resources than the party name. Also, we tend to do better on more local contests. For example, Charles Dawson's recent campaign for a seat on the Carleton Village Council earned him a record 21% of the vote. All of this points to a good chance for Libertarian victory in these races.

In order to run, first call your city and county to find out what offices will be available in November. You'll want to know the exact title of the office, date of the election, filing deadline and (if any) fees, candidate qualification and requirements, etc. (A good run-down on starting a campaign is in the Jan/Feb 1983 MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN). The necessary forms will be available from city and county clerks. You can get details and advice from your regional candidate coordinator (see LCC article and CALENDAR).

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BALLOT PETITION A SUCCESS!!

The Elections Division has informed the LPM that its ballot access petition has met "all statutory requirements." Their recommendation that the Libertarian Party be certified for the 1984 ballot is expected to be approved by the Board of State Canvassers at its next meeting (the date has not set).

Congratulations! and thanks for the fine job you all did on the petition. Every success like this helps belie the myth that third parties are ineffectual.

From the Director

The Senate passed a bill providing the "First national policy on cable TV" in June. The bill allows local governments to keep control over granting franchises, but limits their power over prices, programming, and day-to-day operations of the cable operator. This bill is just a part of the surprising trend on Capitol Hill towards the deregulation of communications, and other industries to a lesser extent. An earlier example is the removal of program and advertising limitations from radio stations in 1981, leaving the stations free to determine for themselves the amount of local programming, advertising, and news they broadcast.

This trend is certainly laudable. The case for deregulating communications is perhaps the strongest deregulation argument in terms of public acceptance. The FCC's restrictive policies have never been very popular with a public to whom the most visible and meaningful Constitutional right is the right to free speech. Furthermore, it has never been justifiable. The airwaves were nationalized in 1927, despite the progress that was being made in the courts to define property rights in the electromagnetic spectrum. The FCC claimed that the scarcity of the spectrum made it necessary to parcel them out according to, it turned out, the political control of the FCC. The doctrine of national ownership led to arbitrary boundaries, "fairness" and "equal time" rules, and the stunting of growth in the technology of mass communications. Now competitive services such as cable provide a non-broadcast alternative to TV, and they are also subject to FCC regulation, even though they use none of the "scarce" resources which provide the only remotely plausible excuse for government intervention!

But now there is a growing realization, even in Congress and the FCC itself, that such regulation does a disservice to consumers of communications, i.e., the large majority of us. In voting to solicit public opinion on its plan to deregulate TV stations just as it did radio in 1981, FCC Chairman Mark Fowler called FCC licensing regulations "censorship — pure and simple."

Here, then, is a (rare) situation in which a small effort on our parts can really help bring about healthy, anti-governmental reform. Take the time to write the FCC — a one-sentence postcard would be enough — in support of the proposed deregulation. It would be a shame to waste the opportunity which Fowler and the FCC are giving us, just as it would be a shame if the reform were defeated because of a few more pro-regulation letters than anti-regulation ones during the public comment period. The address is: FCC, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036. The proposed deregulation will not convert the TV industry into a free-market situation, but the unmistakable step in that direction deserves our support.

Note: While Joe Overton is assisting the Maryland Libertarian Party this month, Steven A. Raimi is serving as Interim Director of the LPM and as editor of the MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN.



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Editor: Joseph P. Overton

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Michigan Libertarian is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and is sent to all members and subscribers. Complimentary issues will be sent to interested persons for two months, but will not be continued unless they become members or subscribers. Subscriptions are available for \$10/year (usually twelve issues).

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

KILLING TWO BIRDS

By Terry Epton

It is never easy to right old wrongs. Of all the people destroyed in the building of this country, the Native American is our original and most aggrieved victim. We stole Indian lands and exterminated their culture.

A number of Indian claims are moving up through federal and state courts. The Pequot Tribe in Connecticut and the Papagos in Arizona are currently in litigation over land and water rights. The disposition of these cases is being watched by dozens of potential litigants with future claims against the United States. In the past, Indians have not done well in American courts. Asking U.S. judges to make good our theft of native lands is like expecting foxes to dispense justice to chickens.

The Reagan administration is taking a hard line against Native American claimants, arguing that generous settlements in current cases will set precedents costing billions in future claims. Restitution for mass murder, and for the theft of a continent, does not come cheap.

However, there is a solution less drastic than paying out billion dollar claims or sending all non-Indians back to where we came from. The federal government is the nation's biggest landlord, owning 500 million acres. With a single act of Congress, we could give this area back to the Indians.

Many defend federal ownership of such vast tracts on environmental grounds. Pollution and overdevelopment are blamed on private property and the profit motive. Federal stewardship is viewed as the best way to protect wilderness areas and natural resources. Unfortunately, the actual experience of federal land management has proven an ecological nightmare.

James Watt has come to symbolize the sell-out of public re-

sources to private interests. But such abuses are built into the system of federal management and to some extent have always occurred. When those who use the land do not own it, there is no incentive to preserve long-term values. The profit system is a method of rationing scarce resources and limiting their use. Government meddling reduces considerations of fit and loss, permitting excessive and unwise development.

For example, the Department

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.

of Interior has been praised for setting aside large tracts of wilderness land. At the same time, federal water projects provided subsidized irrigation to vastly larger areas. Much of this land could not have been profitably farmed without federal irrigation, and would have remained wilderness in the absence of this form of subsidy.

Because of government intervention, dams were built, taxpayers picked up the tab, agribusiness reaped the rewards, and huge wilderness areas were lost.

Much attention has been given to the American Indians' reverence for the land. More recently, some Indian hunting and fishing techniques have been strenuously challenged by environmentalists. Native Americans are not ecologically perfect, but they could hardly be worse stewards of the land than James Watt.

But ceding federal lands to the Indians would be an ethical imperative even if they were to strip mine all of it. We stole the land, the government is only screwing it up, and we could give it back without taking it away from any current owners. No other proposal would more quickly and painlessly begin to right old wrongs.

Terry Epton is a registered nurse and a former history teacher from Kalamazoo.

LPM PICNIC RETURNS

Where can you swim, eat, sun yourself, sail small craft, and talk all day without coming in contact with a single statist? At the Annual LPM Picnic, that's where!

This year's picnic, starting at 1pm on July 30, promises to be terrific. We've reserved Murray's Lake Club for the entire day. The lake involved can accomodate swimmers and very small, non-motored boats (you'll have to carry them about 400 yards from the parking lot). Picnic tables and a beach will also be available. It is suggested that everyone bring the Picnic Flyer or something else to identify themselves as with the LPM (and mentioning the name of Steve Furr, our Murray's Lake Club member will help). One prohibition applies — NO pets allowed.

Once again, the LPM will hold an auction at the Picnic. In past years, items sold included books, small appliances, baked goods, gift certificates, dog or cat neutering(?), etc. Challenge yourself to come up with a unique (and salable) idea. All proceeds go to the LPM's treasury. Bring your checkbooks!!

This year's picnic has at least one advantage over last year's — the entrance fee is half what it was last year (\$2 versus \$4). Children 5-11 cost \$1.50 (for admittance). Murray's Lake Club is located on Plymouth Rd., at the end of Curtis Rd., between Ann Arbor and Plymouth. A map is included on the flyer. For details, call Steve Furr (313) 397-0843. See you there!!

OUR REPRESENTATIVES?

According to the 1982 General Election vote tallies, Congress may represent less than a third of us.

In the State Senate, 20 of the 38 members are majority enough to pass bills. 20 of them, however, together won less than 26.7% of the total votes cast.

In the House of Representatives, the majority (56 of 110) was elected with only 26.4% of the vote.

Non-votes and votes for losing candidates represented 42.4% for the Senate and 39.3% for the House. The voices of the people? Hardly.

LCC ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Following new procedures approved at the May LPM Convention, the LCC filled two vacancies at its June 26th meeting. Robert Roddis, recent LPM candidate for Attorney General, joined Harold Dunn in representing the 14th District, and Keith Edwards now joins Virginia Cropsey in the 12th.

In other business, a site in Ann Arbor was proposed for the 1984 LPM Convention. The LCC decided to accept proposals until the day of the LPM picnic, at which time it would select a site. It also

discussed strategy for the Issues Petition.

Issues and Candidates Chair Sheryl Loux reported to the LCC about new position papers and local elections. She also announced that regional coordinators for the committee are: Sheryl Loux, southwest; Virginia Cropsey, southeast; Joe Overton, northwest; and Dave Gravlin, northeast.

Also at the June 26th meeting, Joseph Cote was appointed Membership Committee Chair, and Michael Boyce was appointed to chair the Finance Committee.

PETITION

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tax reduction movement. But in order for it to earn a place on the ballot, the LPM will need to collect nearly 400,000 signatures to ensure that 305,000 of them are valid.

How can Libertarians (and libertarians) help? first, contributions are needed to print and distribute this petition. The initial printing, for example, was made possible by a specific "Issues Petition" donation by LCC member Harold Dunn. Next, send a long (no. 10) self-addressed stamped envelope to LPM, Dept. T, 112 W. Allegan, Lansing MI 48933, and circulate it. Finally, urge friends and acquaintances to help. We can gain back control of our own incomes, but not without a lot of effort.

DORIS L. BALL, Ph.D.

Center for Behavioral Psychiatry and Psychology, P.C.

111 S. Woodward
Suite 250
Birmingham, MI. 48011
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OPPORTUNITY

from page 1

By running for a city office, you can help keep the Libertarian Party and libertarian ideas in the news. You could make use of our (expected) renewed ballot status. But most importantly, you could win!!

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STATE VOIDS SCHOOL BANK

EASTON, Mass. (AP) — A group of students and a teacher who started a bank at school were learning a lot about high finance when the state decided to teach them a lesson about the law—by shutting them down.

“The law is the law,” said Robert Ledbetter, a state deputy banking commissioner, whose examiners closed the bank at Easton Middle School for not having a charter, among other things.

The bank was started as a learning tool, teaching the children the rudiments of finance by loaning out money for lunches.

Borrowers were charged 8 percent a week with a maximum credit line of \$1.50, twice the price of a day’s hot lunch.

But “the school has gone well beyond the (banking) statute,” Ledbetter said. “Making loans at 8 percent runs about 400 percent per annum and that’s in clear violation of the law. The bank was in violation.”

Ann Hoyle, director of the school’s program for high ability learners, known as HAL, said Wednesday she got the idea for the bank in January and the last thing on her mind was getting in trouble with the state.

Trying to touch every base was her downfall.

Before opening the bank, Ms. Hoyle said she went to the president of the North Easton Savings Bank for advice and got formal approval for the project from her school board.

It was the bank visit that led to the end of her students’ short careers at the HAL—Middle School Cooperative Bank.

“We were operating dually until the bank examiners came to the North Easton Savings Bank to audit the records” and found a copy of her proposal, she said.

“They asked if they could come and visit the students,” she said. “I was very pleased and thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

She said all the 11- and 12-year-old student bankers -- the chairman of the board, the president, the loan officers, the tellers and the bill collectors -- came to the meeting with the examiners.

“After they told us what the responsibilities of a bank examiner were, they pulled out a yellow-lined pad and cited our violations,” she said.

They included operating without a charter, which would cost \$200,000, charging too much interest, collecting loans without a license and using the word “bank” in the title of a business without state authorization.

RAFFLE RESULTS

Ellen Jensen was the winner of the June 50/50 Raffle drawing. Her lucky ticket brought her \$71. Janet Parkes became the first person to win a \$100 second chance drawing, which is held every four months.

Take a chance on the next drawing! Tickets are attached to this newsletter. Remember, our 50/50 raffle prizes, and the \$100 second chance drawing, beats the State lottery’s (45-48%) payback!!

EARLY CONVENTION START

Planning for next year’s LPM State Convention has already begun. Bids for Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids have been made, and bids for other locations are strongly encouraged. The LCC will select a site at our Annual Picnic, July 30.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are two more presentations left in the Church of Nature's series "Study War No More: Approaches to Peace." Tickets for these events cost \$3.50 each at the door (Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center, 2575 Indian Lake Road, Oxford, MI). The schedule is:

July 13 - "To Freeze or Not: A Debate," Al Zawacky, Editor of the Lake Orion Review, and Doug Lent, Detroit Area Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

July 20 - "Swords into Ploughshares- Some Ethical Perspectives," Richard Peacock, Lake Orion United Methodist Church; Debbie Hejl, Society of Friends, Detroit; Brian Bjorklund, St. John Fisher Chapel, Rochester; Ann Franklin, St. Alfreds Episcopal Church, Lake Orion; Chris Brockman, Church of Nature, Dryden.
All programs begin at 7:30p.m.

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.

Keep up to date on LPM Libertarian Central Committee activities - subscribe to the *LPM-LCC Ephemeric*. Twelve issues for only \$5. Contact Ben Bachrach, 604 N. Vernon Ave., Dearborn, MI 48128.

There is a new Laissez Faire ad on the back of this newsletter. From now on, the LPM will receive a 10% commission on every order sent on that order form (or any with the code LMI). Now you can help fund the LPM just by buying books from Laissez Faire.

To get copies of our Issues Petition, or the Voter's Choice or Blanchard recall petitions, send a long, self-addressed stamped envelope to LPM, 112 W. Allegan, Lansing MI 48933 (to Dept. T for the Issues Petition). Donations are requested.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Krieger is responding to Greg Kaza's Guest Column in the January Michigan Libertarian in which he advocates dismantling Selective Service conscription information.)

To The Editor:

I am 18 years old and haven't nor will I ever participate in the draft registration. As many already feel, that conscription is unjust or morally wrong, I also agree with that stance. I do not agree with the open destruction and vandalism of signs and of other paraphernalia advocating draft registration. I have friends that feel conscription is the right thing to do for different reasons. When you destroy a conscription poster, you are silencing someone else's voice, something I thought was important to the Libertarian Party. If you are truly concerned with the freedom of speech then you shall see that it's alright to have an opposing view.

Conscription and war are wrong and both will end when people are given a choice upon which to make an intelligent decision. If we can't make an intelligent argument against the draft without censoring another person's or government's opinion than I shall look upon the hypocritical Libertarian Party in a different light.

Dave Krieger
Detroit

Neither the opinions of Mr. Kaza nor Mr. Krieger are necessarily shared by the LPM or the Michigan Libertarian.

PATRICK A. HELLER

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CALENDAR

THE ISSUES AND CANDIDATES COMMITTEE will meet at 11 a.m., two hours before the LCC meeting on September 11, at the LPM headquarters.

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 Mary Ruwart, (616)375-4959 evenings, or (616) 385-7148 days.

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

LPM Headquarters	Lansing	(517) 484-2188	Jackson County LP	Jerry Potts	(517) 787-3559
Brian Wright	LPM Chairman	(313) 644-1816	Kalamazoo Area	Sheryl Loux	(616) 343-4737
Joe Overton	LPM Director	(517) 372-1587	Kent County LP	Bill Hall	(616) 523-5521
Ben Bachrach	LPM Treasurer	(313) 563-1558	Macomb County LP	Virginia Cropsey	(313) 977-6628
Thomas Jones	LPM Secretary	(313) 837-1123	Metro Detroit Libertarians	Keith Edwards	(313) 777-7468
National Libertarian Party		(202) 333-8209	Midland County LP	Janet Parkes	(517) 631-9737
Students for a Libertarian Society		(212) 475-9701	Oakland County LP	Joe Cote'	(313) 646-9890
Libertarian Student Network		(202) 546-8353	Pontiac/Waterford Area	Jim Hurrell	(313) 394-1245
Ann Arbor Area	Glen Mensching	(313) 662-7158	Saginaw County LP	Sheila Hart	(517) 790-0521
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Ingham County LP	Mike Stein	(517) 482-6905			

LAISSEZ FAIRE

- **WESTERN LIBERALISM**, edited by E.K. Bramsted and K.J. Melhuish. "... a riveting collection of excerpts and speeches from the greatest leaders of that glorious, freedom-loving movement known as classical liberalism. With this book you can trat yourself to an exotic libertarian feast." — Roy A. Childs, Jr. (quality pb, 810p) \$16.95
- **ECONOMICS IN ONE LESSON** by Henry Hazlitt. Classic primer on the principles of the free market economy and the dangers of government intervention. Discusses minimum wage laws, rent control, tariffs, unions, price fixing, inflation, etc. in an easy-to-understand style. (214p) \$5.95
- **SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY?** by Henry Holzer. The constitution's promise to protect individual rights is sabotaged by its supposed guardian, the Supreme Court. Holzer examines the assumptions underlying Supreme Court decisions in 60 major cases, and their effect on individual rights. (hd, 224p) \$14.95
- **MARKETS AND MINORITIES** by Thomas Sowell. Sowell demonstrates the at-best-futile and at-worst-devastating effects of government attempts to aid the advance of ethnic or racial minorities. (136p) \$8.95
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- **THE OMINOUS PARALLELS: The End of Freedom in America** by Leonard Peikoff. What is required to turn a country into a total dictatorship? How did the Nazis accomplish it? It is happening here? Peikoff argues that America today is moving toward the establishment of a Nazi-type dictatorship in the not-too-distant future. Introduction by Ayn Rand. (hd, 394p) \$16.95
- **TOMORROW, CAPITALISM** by Henri Lepage. Already a bestseller in Sweden and France, this book details the recent "revolution" in economics toward a free market orientation. Lepage, a French journalist, surveys such trailblazers as Milton Friedman, Gary Beck, Ronald Coase, and members of the Public Choice school who have reshaped the science of economics into a coherent, comprehensive approach to the study of human problems. (hd, 265p) \$14.95
- **FOR A NEW LIBERTY** by Murray N. Rothbard. Already a classic, the best modern defense of individual liberty. A biting attack on the legitimacy of the state, with numerous criticisms of government intervention. Offers market solutions to many social and economic problems and presents a "revisionist" interpretation of foreign policy and the origins of the cold war. (pb, 325p) \$6.95
- **ATLAS SHRUGGED** by Ayn Rand. The "philosophical" novel that served as a major catalyst for the post-World War II revival of libertarian thought. Defines a new ethics of rational self-interest and provides a philosophical foundation and moral defense of rational individualism and laissez faire capitalism. (1084p) \$4.95
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