



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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LCC

LANSING—On September 11, 1983 the Libertarian Central Committee adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the proposal before the Michigan Legislature requiring mandatory use of automobile seat belts constitutes a flagrant violation of individual rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of Michigan opposes this legislation and reaffirms the right of all people to make decisions regarding their own personal safety.

Other actions taken by the central committee are as follows: —Steven Furr replaced Joe Overton as Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Michigan with Denise Kline acting as Office Director.

—Libertarian Week Committee was appointed consisting of Mr. S. Furr, Chair; Ms. Loux; and Ms. Cropsey—see article and flyer.

—Reports were submitted by all standing committee chairpersons.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN WEEK

The third annual "Libertarian Week" is scheduled for the week of October 16 - 22.

"Michigan Libertarian Week" has been used by local groups to attract the attention of sympathizers to the Libertarian Party. In the past Alicia and Ed Clark toured the state and local groups have sponsored showings of "The Incredible Bread Machine" or invited speakers such as Robert Tisch to public forums.

This year with much assistance of the Issues Committee Chair, Virginia Cropsey, Michigan Libertarian Week will culminate with a whirlwind tour of the state by the L.P. Presidential Candidate, David Bergland.

The tentative schedule includes arrival in Detroit Friday, October 21 in the a.m.; radio interviews, a speaking engagement in Kalamazoo early Friday evening, a reception in Grand Rapids late Friday, Press Conference in Grand Rapids Saturday a.m. and climaxing in a banquet at Ellie's Supper Club in Clawson, northern suburb of Detroit (see enclosed flyer for details).

The state office will be pleased to assist you in organizing any event you should wish to attempt during this special week of the year. Contact the Libertarian Headquarters, 112 W. Allegan, Lansing, 48933, (517) 484-2188.

ISSUES '84

LANSING - At an 11:00 a.m. meeting prior to the September 11 LCC meeting at the Lansing headquarters, the Issues Committee goals for the year were outlined and Virginia Cropsey was elected chair of the Committee.

The function of the MLP Issues Committee is to generate information on Libertarian positions for the public, press, MLP membership and MLP candidates and to work for the implementation of LP positions.

Three methods of performing this function will be implemented. First, the committee will oversee drafting of a set of major summary position papers relevant to Michigan. The five topics chosen by the Committee are Economics, including property, tax and unemployment, Civil Liberties, Education, Crime and Election Law. Outlines on each topic will be presented at the next meeting, rough drafts will be presented to the LCC in January or February and final drafts will be presented to the LCC for ratification in March so that copies will be available to candidates and members at the April convention. Following the primary they will be mass mailed to the Michigan media. Superintending responsibility for the individual position papers is as follows: Economics - Keith Edwards, Civil Liberties - Brian Wright, Education - Denise Kline, Crime Sheryl Loux, and Election Law - Mart Hillard. Please submit relevant information for inclusion to these persons, or to Virginia Cropsey at 36376 Park

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From the Director

LIBERTARIAN WEEK

A TIME TO BECOME INVOLVED

I believe it is necessary to again point out that Libertarian Week is the week of October 16 - 22. As you read through this news letter, you will begin to see that the Michigan Libertarian Party is gearing up for our most important election year to date.

I encourage you to attend one or more of the events scheduled in the various areas of the state. If you happen to live near Detroit, Kalamazoo, or Grand Rapids consider catching one of the events featuring our Presidential Candidate David Bergland on October 21 or 22 (see tentative schedule below).

Probably the most exciting and rewarding event of the week will be the Banquet at Ellie's Supper Club in Clawson on October 22. Only 200 dinner tickets are available on a first come basis, I encourage you to order your tickets today.

Contact the LPM Headquarters in Lansing for more information on other Libertarian Week activities. It is up to each of us as individuals to get together and strengthen the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

Steven J. Furr
STEVEN J. FURR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DAVID BERGLAND

OCTOBER 21, 1983

7:55 AM Arrive Detroit U.S. Air Flt. 1411
9:00 Detroit Press Club
11:00 WXYZ Talk Radio - 1270AM
5:00 PM Kalamazoo - News Interviews
6:30 Kalamazoo - Speaking Engagement
8:30 Grand Rapids - Reception

OCTOBER 22, 1983

9:00 AM Grand Rapids - Press Conference
11:00 Grand Rapids - Speech
6:30 PM Clawson - Banquet



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Editor: Steven J. Furr

Printing: Nick Hamilton

Mailing: Rose Wright

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

BY: G.R. Bradley

Last May David Boaz, in his banquet speech to the Michigan Libertarian Party Convention, was highly critical of the lack of political pragmatism evinced by libertarian candidates. While his remarks were welcomed and appreciated by many of us, the cursory, one-paragraph coverage given to his address in the Michigan Libertarian was very disappointing. Boaz was especially critical of what he called the "free market mystics", who brush aside all economic argument with a reference to Adam Smith's invisible hand reaching out to make everything for the best in this best of all possible worlds.

Many libertarians believe that if all governmental restrictions on business and commerce were lifted tomorrow, an unprecedented economic recovery would occur, leading to a veritable earthly paradise of plenty. At the same time, many people in America's other minor political parties feel that such action would result in a plutocracy, relegating most people to economic serfdom. Proponents of each viewpoint may continue to argue for or against a laissez faire economy for years to come but their argument will be generally irrelevant because it just ain't gonna happen.

There is no possible way a libertarian political agenda is going to be enacted in a time period of less than several decades. Furthermore, if that enactment occurs at all, it will happen one piece at a time. The proponents of libertarian reforms had better be careful that their reforms don't create greater problems than they solve due to an overlooked but critical governmental distortion of the market that shouldn't exist in an ideal world but nevertheless does. Arthur Bollman made a fine point in the May issue about the efficacy of calling

for the end of unemployment insurance and welfare before dealing with the governmental policies that promote high unemployment. If libertarian candidates expect to win elections, they had best stop trying to find the position most consistent with libertarian philosophers describing some social utopia and start finding positions generally consistent with changing the political direction toward libertarian goals without immediately alienating most voters.

At the present time, the popular conception of the major political parties is that the Republicans represent Big Business and the military, while the Democrats represent unions, minorities, and welfare recipients. There is a sizable fraction of the population that doesn't fit into these categories and is uncomfortable with the rhetoric and actions of both major parties. A pragmatic approach for the Libertarian Party is to emphasize and prioritize those issues that appeal to a coalition of small business, private sector workers, and the unemployed, none of whose concerns are being well addressed by the major parties. There are lots of votes out there for the taking, if voters aren't turned off by what they regard as extremist rhetoric.

In the next election the economy will still be a major issue, ripe for libertarian exploitation. The mistake of many libertarians in addressing economic issues is that, if they aren't pushing free market mysticism, they tend to sound disturbingly like Republicans. What the President and his party are supporting is capitalism as defined in the American Heritage Dictionary: "an economic system characterized

by freedom of the market with increasing concentration of private and corporate ownership of the means of production and distribution." Hopefully, what most libertarians support is a definition truncated prior to the emphasized section. What many citizens fail to understand is that government controls on business are chiefly to make it too expensive for the "little guy" to compete with the Fortune 500. The State has legislated economy of scale to mean bigger is better by requiring thousands of forms, documents, and affidavits that are a minor annoyance to a multi-billion dollar conglomerate but the kiss of death to two entrepreneurs in a garage. It is vitally important to make the distinction that Libertarians want to help all business while Republicans tend to help only big business.

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.

In the near term, the principle area of economic controls to target should be tax policy. Too often libertarians disregard this fertile area except in generalities (possibly through lack of understanding or familiarity), and put their major emphasis on regulation agencies. Admittedly many of the agencies are incompetent and/or overzealous, but the present libertarian solutions to regulation seem generally to take the form of judicial redress. The average citizen will prefer a plan, however faulty, to prevent his/her well from being poisoned over a perfect method for obtaining restitution after the fact. Until libertarians can agree on an answer to the problems of environmental pollution and consumer safety more preventative in nature than fear of being sued sometime in the future by an individual with negligible resources, the Party had best concentrate on specific taxation policies,

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GUEST

no matter how complicated and dull they appear superficially.

The electoral process should be educational. If the general populace doesn't understand tax policy, it should be the job of the Party to explain how corporate and business tax policies affect the average voter. That average voter may be uneducated in many respects, but not stupid, as the major parties seem to imply with their rhetoric.

On the federal level, tax policies that favor merger and acquisition over construction and development, cost millions of jobs. If the Democrats have too many vested interests to make that an issue, libertarians can easily deflate their rhetoric as "the working man's party." On the state level, the single business tax is a chief culprit in taking jobs elsewhere, and should be a major issue in the next election. Michigan unemployment taxes are exorbitant in comparison to other states. Instead of trying immediately to eliminate them (the most correct approach), a graduated system of taxing businesses based on the history of claims against them would be an acceptable step in the right direction. A similar approach could be taken with worker's compensation.

The people of Michigan are fed up with the poor economic condition of the state which chiefly results from political policies favorable to heavy industry. These policies have been bipartisan in nature and both Democrats and Republicans are equally culpable for the economic morass in which the state finds itself. Under these circumstances,

the Libertarian Party can become a viable political force, but only if it acts in a pragmatic manner.

Instead of attacking the state budget across the board, find ten or fifteen outstanding examples of waste (supported by Republicans and unacceptable from the standpoint of the average voter, not the libertarian dogmatist) and make these a focal point of the campaign. Instead of simply calling for the abolition of most (all) taxes, establish a detailed platform of tax code revision consistent with the low likelihood of having sufficient support to greatly reduce state expenditures, and emphasize how the revisions will benefit the average citizen. The Party should support measures in the short term that will encourage the development of small and diverse business in the state to counteract the present economic dependence on the old, large smokestack industries. A diverse base of business and industry would vastly improve the state economy and a short-term policy promoting one sector of business is not anti-libertarian if that sector has been previously stifled by government interference. From a political viewpoint, an emphasis on small business promotes employment since small business tends to be more labor intensive than heavy industry and is more likely to use automation to supplement workers rather than replace them. Since funds are limited for libertarian candidates, the Party should concentrate its resources on races for the legislature and state senate where neither major party candidate enjoys great support. Working class districts with a Republican voting history could prove fruitful for a candidate who can

explain how libertarian policies benefit the working man. Finally, the state party should try to downplay the positions in the national platform that are most politically unrealistic at the present time. For instance, if a political opponent brings up the issue of legalizing heroin, one might counter that emulating the British system is only viable on a national level and therefore irrelevant to a state election. Most importantly, a candidate should not be castigated by the Party for saying she/he disagrees with some part of the national platform.

Many libertarians overlook the fact that the United States is a representative democracy. While a significant number of libertarians might be elected by advocating gradual reforms in the direction of achieving a libertarian society, a perception that libertarian candidates are zealots who will promote and support legislative measures against the wishes of the majority of those they represent could make them unelectable. The Party should not disavow its long term political goals but, in the short term, the Party should emphasize a more moderate platform for realistic immediate reforms. The average voter, particularly in the frost-belt industrial states, has seldom been less satisfied with the major parties. If libertarians pursue office pragmatically, instead of like political evangelicals, there could be three parties in the legislatures of several states in 1985.

Mr. Bradley is a member of the Issues Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Michigan Libertarian.

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NATIONAL DEBT

Washington (AP) — The real national debt may be closer to \$7 trillion than to the \$1.4 trillion ceiling recently approved by Congress, a congressional staff study said.

The higher budget figure is arrived at by including "off-budget" federal obligations such as farm, housing and corporate loan guarantees, said the study by Joint Economic Committee staff director Bruce Bartlett, a Republican. Amounts defaulted on farms, housing and corporations would become the direct responsibility of taxpayers.

The statutory debt of \$1.4 trillion is the difference between revenues and expenditures, the study released yesterday said.

The study differentiated between what the debt would be on paper — close to \$7 trillion — and what taxpayers are likely to owe. The latter amount, including statutory and "off-budget" items, would be \$3.5 trillion, the study said.

Because the government has authority to tax, print money and wipe out a large portion of debts it owes to itself, "the possibility that the U.S. government could, in some meaningful sense, actually go bankrupt is quite remote," the study said, but added:

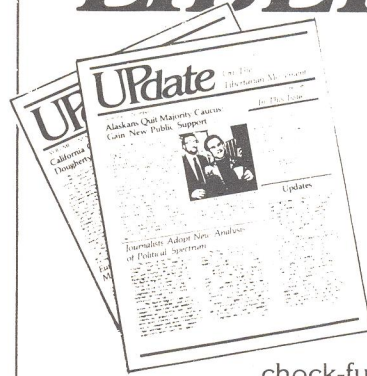
"We may be imposing on unborn generations enormous tax burdens, inflation or at the very least political dilemmas of great size, as hard choices must be made between the cancellation of implied promises and contracts made years earlier and the threat of taxes or monetary policies which could destroy the economy."

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BERGLAND & LEWIS

For those of you who were not fortunate enough to attend the exciting National Convention in New York this year, the Libertarian Party's nominee for President is not Gene Burns. Prior to the convention Gene Burns withdrew from the running.

After heated debate and several rounds of balloting with Michigan's favorite daughter, Mary Ruwart, right in the middle of it, David Bergland, an attorney from California, past National Chairman of the Libertarian Party and 1976 Vice-Presidential candidate won the nomination over Earl Ravenal. Jim Lewis won the Vice-Presidential nod.

OBSCENE ?

Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) and Pittsburgh government employees made nearly 2,000 long-distance phone calls to tape-recorded obscene messages, costing taxpayers \$1,208, according to the Pittsburgh Press, which said 1,978 phone calls were apparently made to several New York numbers.

"There was a president who lusted in his heart," said Mayor Richard Caliguiri. "I think I have some employees who lusted in their ears."

City and county officials both said employees will be ordered to repay any such calls they made.

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IF....

(Editor's note: The following article is reprinted with the permission of National Lampoon magazine)

Declaring that "the U.S. has a serious surplus of laws," Congress has announced passage of a subsidy program under which it will be paid not to make laws. Explained House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, "It works just like the farm subsidy program, whereby we pay farmers not to grow crops. We feel it's a vital step to take now because, in recent years, Congress has been far too fertile in creating laws. In fact, there are so many laws covering every little thing that people are too confused to obey them, and the result has been rampant lawlessness."

According to O'Neill, "The way the program operates is simple. In a legislative session, Congress typically enacts, say, one thousand laws. From now on, for every law we don't enact, each member will receive a hundred thousand dollars, which is approximately what he would have made in things like free lunches, campaign contributions, and outright gifts in order to pass the law. And, to be certain that Congress lies completely fallow, we won't meet anymore. We'll just come in once a year and officially adjourn until the next year. Of course, in addition to the subsidies, we'll also earn our regular salaries, and that should be just enough to pay for the vacations we'll have to take to be sure we don't hang around Washington and become tempted to start making laws again."

Concluded O'Neill, "Most laws, which cater to special-interest groups, are bad for the country anyway, and maybe without them the common good will have a chance, and we'll be able to clear up some of our problems. Also, I think that Americans will sleep easier at night now, knowing they won't have to wake up in the morning suddenly not able to do something they want to do."

DORIS L. BALL, Ph.D.

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ISSUES

Place, Sterling Heights, MI' 48077. The Issues Committee requests assistance in drafting these position papers. Those volunteering already are: unemployment - Gary Bradley, tax - Steve Furr, Education - Dave Gravlín and Mike Palonus, Election Law - James Hudler, Crime - Ron Heeren and Mart Hillard. The Committee also welcomes the submission of position papers on other relevant issues with the understanding that they are subject to ratification by a majority of the LCC before they may be considered the position of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

The second method of performing the Issues Committee function will be the establishment of a Legislative Watch and file system. A Legislative Watch Director is being sought. The Director's duties are to

keep abreast of pending legislation, principally in the Michigan legislature, but also in Congress and Michigan localities as much as possible, to be aware of important executive and judicial decisions, and to obtain copies and file the information received, including copies of the legislation, leading cases and executive and administrative pronouncements. Files on elected officials and appointees will also be maintained. The Director is a member of the Issues Committee and recommends activist projects to the Committee. Interested persons should contact Virginia Cropsey. Each county should have its own Issues Committee and Watch Director.

Finally the Issues Committee will produce press releases based on resolutions adopted by the LCC after recommendation by the Committee. It will report to the LCC on current issues and recommend activist projects to it. For example, the Committee may circulate sheets with information on an issue sufficient to allow members to write letters to the editor and to their representatives.

The Issues Committee welcome suggestions and volunteers.

CALENDAR

LIBERTARIAN WEEK -

October 16 - 22

Contact State office for details.

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 the third week of the month. The October meeting will be a forum on Compulsory Seat Belt Use. Contact Virginia Cropsey at (313) 977-6628 for details.

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 each month at Gino's Restaurant in Keego Harbor located on Cass Lake Rd. north of Orchard Lake. For more information contact Bill Hollander at (313) 683-3066.

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 celebrate Libertarian Week with 1984 Presidential Candidate, David Bergland, giving his positions on the current issues. Mary Ruwart and Kurt Weber, Kalamazoo City Commission Candidates will also speak. A short introductory film on the Libertarian Party, "We Hold These Truths", will be shown. For time and location, 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

LPM HEADQUARTERS	Lansing	(517) 484-2188
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Ben Bachrach	LPM Treasurer	(313) 563-1558
Mart Hillard	LPM Secretary	(313) 873-4866

Libertarian National Committee	(202) 333-8209
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Libertarian Student Network	(202) 546-8353
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Monroe County LP	Chuck Dawson	(313) 654-2561
Oakland County LP	Joe Cote	(313) 646-9890
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Denise Kline Office Director

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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 treat 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
\$13.50
- **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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ARE YOU A LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBER OR POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

But you'd like to be more informed and confident when debating the issues?

IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" to any of the above questions, then you should attend the series of eight monthly meetings, beginning in October, sponsored by the Candidates Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan.

The first meeting will consist of a course registration, a general introduction to libertarianism and the Libertarian Party, and a workshop for potential Libertarian Party candidates. There is a course study packet required, which will be available at the meetings or through your Candidates Committee Regional Directors for \$5.00. Workshops for potential candidates will be conducted after each meeting.

WHEN AND WHERE? Contact the Regional Director in your area:

U.P. & NW DENISE KLINE; Rte. 3 - Box 14; Stephenson, MI 49887; (517) 484-2188

N.E. DAVE CRAVLIN; 419 N Center St.; Royal Oak, MI 48067; (313) 541-2587

Central JOE COTE; 30705 Timberbrook Ln; Birmingham, MI 48010; (313) 646-9890

S.W. SHERYL LOUX; 904 Washburn Ave.; Kalamazoo, MI 49001; (616) 343-4737

S.E. VIRGINIA CROUSEY; 36376 Park Place; Sterling Hts 48077; (313) 977-6628

The Libertarian Party of Michigan Cordially Invites You to Its
3rd Annual Libertarian Week Banquet

featuring

1984

Libertarian Presidential Candidate

DAVID BERGLAND

Mr. Bergland's topic will be:

' THE NEED FOR A PARTY OF PRINCIPLE '

**Saturday, October 22
Ellie's Supper Club
1019 West Maple Road
Clawson, Michigan**

Cost: \$20/Person, Table of Eight for \$150
Cash Bar: 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Dinner (3 entree buffet): 7:30 P.M.
Dancing: 10:00 - 1:00 A.M.
Make checks payable to Libertarian Party of Mich.
Mail to: Virginia Cropsey, 36376 Park Place,
Sterling Heights, MI 48077; By October 18, 1983

Yes, I want to make my reservations today!

Name: _____

Send me _____ tickets at \$20 each.

Address: _____

Reserve _____ tables (8 seats) at \$150 each.

I will not be able to attend, but here is my contribution
of \$ _____ to the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Total Enclosed: _____

Phone: _____