



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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THE PARTY OF PRINCIPLE

IMPORTANT NOTE!

The publication of this issue reflects several changes in the *Michigan Libertarian* which have occurred since the last issue. Here is what to expect in the coming months:

1. Joe Overton has assumed the position of Editor to allow LPM Coordinator Denise Kline more time to devote to her ever increasing responsibilities at our Lansing Headquarters. Denise will, however, continue to contribute most of the party news and events articles. It is important that anyone with this type of information contact Denise first and have her forward the news for publication. In this way, it can be assured that anyone contacting LPM Headquarters for information on an event will be able to receive it.
2. We are still in the process of transition between editors, as evidenced by the late arrival of this issue. In order to get back on schedule with timely, monthly newsletters, the next issue will be a combined March/April edition and will arrive in your mailbox the first week of April. As of the May issue, we will resume with monthly publications.
3. The number of complimentary issues sent to people interested in the Libertarian Party has been increased to three. Thereafter they will be asked to subscribe or join if they wish to continue receiving the newsletter. If you know someone who is a potential Libertarian supporter, please send their name and address and we'll be glad to send them information on our organization.
4. Martin Hillard's article on the Michigan Court system in this issue is the first of what will be a regular feature in the *Michigan Libertarian*: Analysis of state government organization and policy. Various members have begun concentrating on one specific area of public policy at the state level to become experts in that field. They will use this knowledge to write issue papers, policy analysis, and articles to better equip our members and candidates to tackle the issues. Please consider becoming a part of this network of policy specialists and contact Joe Overton if you are interested.



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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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 three months, but will not be continued unless they become members or subscribers. Subscriptions are available for \$10 per year.

Articles submitted for publication are welcome and should be typewritten double-spaced and signed. Advertising is available at \$3 per column inch for camera-ready copy. All materials and information submitted for publication must be received by the 10th day of the month preceding the desired issue, and should be sent to *Michigan Libertarian*, 804 Vance Road, Midland, MI 48640.

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 education and political action. The Central Committee consists of two representatives from each congressional district and five members at large.

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Libertarian Party of Michigan Chairman Martin Hillard, a pre-trial attorney for the Federal Court in Grand Rapids, explains the basic operation of the Michigan judicial system.

MICHIGAN COURTS

by Martin Hillard

To most people, the judicial system is an unfathomable bureaucracy they only come in contact with, if at all, when they are divorced or accused of a crime. An understanding of the structure of Michigan Courts is crucial, however, for candidates and others who may be called upon to deal with this important area of public policy.

The state court system is divided into five different courts. Two courts are of "limited jurisdiction," two hear almost only appeals, and the fifth is a court of general jurisdiction.

There are two types of jurisdiction. "Original jurisdiction" refers to a court's authority to be the first court to hear the case: the trial court. "Appellate jurisdiction," as its name implies, refers to the authority of a court to hear appeals from a lower tribunal.

STATE DISTRICT COURT

The first court for consideration is also the newest. The district courts in Michigan were created in the late 1960s by constitutional amendment. They replaced the former institution of the Justice of the Peace and have been slowly replacing local municipal courts. In fact, there are only a few municipal courts left, located in southeast Michigan.

District courts are limited jurisdiction courts having original jurisdiction in criminal misdemeanor cases where the possible sentence is 90 days or less, civil cases in which the amount in dispute is \$10,000 or less, and "civil infractions," your garden-variety traffic ticket. District Courts have no appellate jurisdiction.

District courts have another important function in criminal cases which will be tried in the circuit court. The district court judge serves as the "magistrate" at a defendant's original arraignment and also conducts the preliminary examination of the defendant.

The arraignment is the first court appearance at which the defendant is formally accused of his crime and he is allowed to enter his plea. The

preliminary exam is a hearing where the prosecutor presents evidence to convince the magistrate, who sits without a jury, that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the accused committed that crime. If the magistrate agrees, he orders the defendant "bound over" for trial in circuit court. If the magistrate finds no probable cause, the charges are dropped and the defendant is set free.

District judges are the most common in the state. They are elected by the voters in their district. In most counties, the entire county forms a court district. However, larger counties, such as Wayne, Oakland, Kent, etc., have more than one district, each of which contain one or more cities. The number of judges in a district varies from one in the less populous to the always increasing number of judgeships in Detroit's district court.

The district court's bills are paid jointly by the state and the local governmental unit(s) the district court serves. For example, Muskegon County is served by the 60th district court and has 6 judges. The salaries and costs of the court are shared by the county and the state. The pay of a district court judge varies from district to district. State law requires a minimum salary which is provided by the state, which the local governmental unit may add to as it deems fit. The normal salary range would be \$20,000 to \$35,000.

THE PROBATE COURT

The other court of limited jurisdiction is the probate court. With one or two exceptions involving small counties in the upper peninsula, there is one probate court for each county in the state, each having one or more judges. Until recently, each county did have its own probate court, though its judge may have been only part-time. However, the state has moved to combine the smallest counties into single probate districts having one full-time judge. However, any county whose population justifies at least one full-time judge is entitled to its own pro-

bate court.

As its name suggests, the probate court has original jurisdiction in cases involving the probating of estates. This is a court many of us occasionally have contact with if a rich, or not so rich, uncle leaves us money in his will. The probate court determines if a valid will exists and supervises an estate's personal representative's distribution of property according to the dictates of the will.

Where a person dies without a will ("intestate"), the probate court determines how his property will be distributed according to strict statutory guidelines contained in the probate code.

Connected with its administration of estates, the probate court also has a role in ensuring that trusts are carried out according to the trust instruments.

Another important area of the probate court's original jurisdiction which is not obvious from its name is that, when sitting as the juvenile court, it considers many problems relating to juveniles. Firstly, and most visably, it conducts all criminal trials involving juveniles, except in those rare cases where it "waives" its jurisdiction and allows the minor to be tried as an adult in circuit court. If a fifteen-year-old steals your car and is caught, he will be taken before the probate court to answer for his crime. A probate court will normally waive its jurisdiction over a juvenile where a particularly vicious crime is involved, such as murder.

Probate judges also have certain roles in county administration such as serving on three-member committees that make appointments to fill vacancies in county executive positions. However, this is a relatively minor aspect of the job.

Like district courts, probate courts hear no appeals and the costs of operating the courts are divided between the state and the county, with the salaries varying between the counties.

THE CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court is the court in Michigan which possesses general jurisdiction. That is, if there is no other court in the state which has the right to hear a case, it goes to the circuit court. The circuit court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases involving felonies and misdemeanors which carry possible sentences of more than 90 days ("high court misdemeanors"), civil cases where the amount in dispute exceeds \$10,000, and civil cases in which an equitable remedy is sought.

Equitable remedies are those that do not involve the payment of a cash judg-

Continued on page four

ment. These would include injunctions to require someone to stop doing something or to do something, a division of property, an accounting of the records of a corporation, etc. Most people who come into contact with the circuit court do so during a divorce action, over which the circuit has original jurisdiction.

The circuit courts also possess appellate jurisdiction over certain cases. Any person whose trial, whether civil or criminal, occurred in district court has an appeal of right to the circuit court. Certain, though not all, appeals from probate court decisions go to the circuit court by right (when probate appeals go to circuit court is subject to a rather complex court rule and is beyond the consideration of this article). Finally, the circuit court hears appeals from certain administrative agencies, such as the Teacher Tenure Commission and the MESC.

Normally, each county has one circuit court with one or more circuit judges. However, a number of smaller counties are combined into circuits containing two or more counties. There are no counties, not even Wayne, which have more than one circuit court. A circuit court judge's salary varies from circuit to circuit with a base being paid by the state and the local county or counties adding to it by an amount they deem appropriate. The typical salary is approximately \$50,000.

THE COURT OF APPEALS

Perhaps the most secluded court in the state, the Court of Appeals was created with the adoption of the new state constitution in 1963. The first Appeals Court judges, nine of them, were elected in 1964 and the Court opened its doors in 1965.

The Court of Appeals hears almost exclusively appeals. The few cases in which they have original jurisdiction are not worth discussing. Anyone who was originally tried in the circuit court, and those who are appealing a probate court order and does not have an appeal of right to the circuit court, have an appeal of right to the Court of Appeals. Further, the Court of Appeals may grant "leave to appeal" (permission to appeal to the Court) upon application by any party who has already appealed to the circuit court and is dissatisfied with the circuit court's decision. The Court is under no obligation to grant leave and in most cases does not. Finally, the Court of Appeals hears certain appeals from administrative agencies (those which are not heard by the circuit court); also, parties who initially appeal an administrative agency's decision to the circuit court

have an appeal of right to the Court of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals is divided into three divisions of more or less equal population. There are currently six judges elected from each division for a total of 18 judges. Each judge serves for a six-year term and earns approximately \$75,000 per year. The total cost of the Court's operation is paid for by the state.

Unlike the district, probate, and circuit courts which sit with one judge hearing each case, the Court of Appeals sits in panels of three judges which consider each case. The decision of any two judges determines the outcome in any given case. Although one would expect that a panel would consist only of judges from the same division, that is not the way the court operates. Rather, judges are randomly assigned to the panels regardless of the division they sit in. Thus, in any given month, a panel may sit in Detroit (the first division) made of one judge from Southfield (second division), one judge from Grand Rapids and a judge from Petosky (both in the third division).

One would also expect that only Court of Appeals judges would sit on a panel. Again, this is not how the Court functions. Pursuant to the constitution, a circuit judge or a retired circuit or Court

of Appeals judge, or a retired Supreme Court Justice, may sit on a Court of Appeals panel by assignment. These assigned judges are called "visiting judges" and only one of the three judges on a panel may be a visiting judge; the other two must be Court of Appeals judges. Current practice is that most, though not all, panels have a visiting judge.

Finally, it should be noted that a Court of Appeals judge normally sits on one panel each month, though there are one or two months in the summer in which a judge does not have to sit on a panel and may devote his attention to writing opinions or taking a fishing trip. Each panel, of which there are usually 7 or 8 each month, hears 42 cases.

Once a panel hears a case, the judges take an initial vote on whether to affirm or reverse the lower court's decision. The cases are divided between the judges

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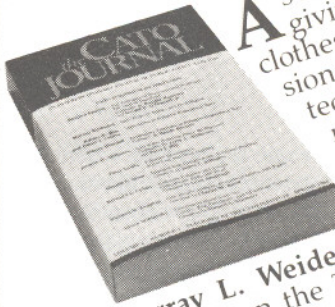
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the CATO JOURNAL

THE ABC OF A MARKET ECONOMY

Reprinted from *The Freeman*, February 1985

by Henry Hazlitt

There are basically only two ways in which economic life can be organized. The first is by the voluntary choice of families and individuals and by voluntary cooperation. This arrangement has come to be known as the free market. The other is by the orders of a dictator. This a command economy. In its more extreme form, when an organized state expropriates the means of production, it is called socialism or communism. Economic life must be primarily organized by one system or the other.

It can, of course, be a mixture, as it unfortunately is in most nations today. But the mixture tends to be unstable. If it is a mixture of a free and a coerced economy the coerced section tends constantly to increase.

One qualification needs to be emphasized. A "free" market does not mean and has never meant that everybody is free to do as he likes. Since time immemorial mankind has operated under a rule of law, written or unwritten. Under a market system as any other, people are forbidden to kill, molest, rob, libel or otherwise intentionally injure each other. Otherwise free choice and all other individual freedoms would be impossible. But an economic system must be dominantly either a free or a command system.

Ever since the introduction and spread of Marxism the great majority of people who publicly discuss economic issues have been confused.

Recently a very eminent person was quoted as denouncing economic systems that respond "only to the forces of the market place," and are governed "by the profit motive of the few rather than the needs of the many." He warned that such a system could put "the world's food supply into even greater jeopardy."

The sincerity of these remarks is beyond question. But they show how phrases can betray us. We have come to think of "the profit-motive" as a narrowly selfish drive confined to a small group of the already-rich whose profit comes at the expense of everybody else. But in its widest sense the profit-motive is one that all of us share and must share. It is our universal motive to make conditions more satisfactory for

ourselves and our families. It is the motive of self-preservation. It is the motive of the father who is not only trying to feed and house himself but his wife and his children, and to make the economic conditions of his whole family, if possible, constantly better. It is the dominant motive of all productive activity.

Voluntary Cooperation

This motive is often called "selfish." No doubt in part it is. But it is hard to see how mankind (or any animal species) could have survived without a minimum of selfishness. The individual must make sure he himself survives before the species can survive. And the so-called profit-motive itself is seldom solely selfish.

In a primitive society the "unit" is seldom the individual but the family, or even the clan. Division of labor begins within the family. The father hunts or plants and harvests crops; the mother cooks and bears and nurses children; the children collect firewood, and so forth. In the clan or the wider group there is even more minute subdivision and specialization of labor. There are farmers, carpenters, plumbers, architects, tailors, barbers, doctors, lawyers, clergymen and so *ad infinitum*. They supply each other by exchanging their services. Because of this specialization, production increases more than proportionately to numbers; it becomes incredibly efficient and expert. There develops an immense system of voluntary productive cooperation and voluntary exchange.

Each of us is free (within certain limits) to choose the occupation in which he himself specializes. And in selecting this he is guided by the relative rewards in this occupation, by its relative ease or difficulty, pleasantness or unpleasantness, and the special gifts, skills, and training it requires. His rewards are decided by how highly other people value his services.

Free-Market Economy

This immense cooperative system is known as a free-market economy. It was not consciously planned by anybody. It evolved. It is not perfect, in the sense that it leads to the maximum possible balance-

ed production, and/or distributes its rewards and penalties in exact proportion to the economic deserts of each of us. But this could not be expected of any economic "system." The fate of each of us is always affected by the accidents and catastrophes as well as the blessings of nature—by rainfall, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, or what not. A flood or a drought may wipe out half a crop, bringing disaster to those growers directly hit by it, and perhaps record-high prices and profits to the growers who were spared. And no system can overcome the shortcomings of the human beings that operate it—the relative ignorance, ineptitude, or sheer bad luck of some of us, the lack of perfect foresight or omniscience on the part of all of us.

But the ups and downs of the market economy tend to be self-correcting. Overproduction of automobiles or apartments will lead to fewer of them being produced the following year. A short crop of corn to be planted the following season. Even before there were government statistics, producers were guided by relative prices and profits. Production will tend to be constantly more efficient because the less efficient producers will tend to be weeded out and the more efficient will be encouraged to expand output.

The people who recognize the merits of this system call it the market economy of free enterprise. The people who want to abolish it have called it - since the publication of *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848 - capitalism. The name was intended to discredit it - to imply that it was a system developed for and by the "capitalists" - by definition the disgustingly rich who used their capital to enslave and "exploit" the "workers."

The whole process was grossly distorted. The enterpriser was putting his accumulated savings at risk at what he hoped was an opportunity. He had no prior assurance of success. He had to offer the going wage or better to attract workers from their existing employments. Where the more successful enterprisers were, the higher wages also tended to be. Marx talked as if the success of every new business undertaking was a certainty, and not a sheer gamble. This resulted in his condemning the enterpriser for his very risk-taking and venturesomeness. Marx took profits for granted. He seemed to assume that wealth could never be honestly earned by successful risk-taking but had to be inherited. He ignored the record of constant business failures.

But the label "capitalism" did pay unintended tribute to one of the system's supreme merits. By providing rewards to some of the people who risked investing

PARTY NEWS

by
Denise
Kline

NRA RECOGNIZES LP CANDIDATES

LPM Coordinator Denise Kline and LCC member Gary Bradley of St. Johns prompted a National Rifle Association political analyst to "realize that the Libertarian Party is a viable political party in many areas of the country and is growing." The analyst also indicated that the NRA would be reviewing its policy regarding which candidates would receive surveys and urged us to keep in touch as the 1988 elections approach. Letters

from Kline and Bradley (also an NRA member and Libertarian candidate) were prompted when Lansing area State Representative candidate Jon W. Addis became concerned that Libertarian candidates had not received NRA surveys in Michigan. Bradley pointed out that Libertarians support the freedom to own guns as an individual right that may only be restricted when the weapon is used to commit an act of aggression.

PETITION EFFORTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is currently seeking additional pledges to petition amounting to about 10,000 of the more than 25,000 signatures required for ballot status, thereby allowing the Libertarian Central Committee to initiate this year's ballot drive during the first quarter.

Best estimates indicate that 14,400, approximately 3/5 of the 25,000 signature goal set by the LCC, had been pledged in the month following the December adoption of the proposal. Because of the six-month time limit set by State law for the collection of signatures, and in order to share petitioning efforts, the LCC adopted Brian Wright's proposal to begin the ballot drive only after sufficient

pledges to petition, or to contribute financially to the drive at 50¢ per signature, had been collected.

Local and State coordinators will be available to train petitioners and coordinate groups of petitioners so that volunteers will be assured of productive, secure locations and good company during their efforts. Please send in your pledge now to gather signatures or financially assist us in this important preliminary to our political efforts. An added benefit is that petitioning itself provides the Libertarian Party with valuable exposure and generates interest from new people. Please pledge your assistance now.

PETITION PLEDGE FORM

Number of Signatures Pledged:

500 ____ 300 ____ 100 ____ Other ____

Monetary Substitute \$ _____
(@\$.50 per signature)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Mail to: _____
City _____ zip _____
Libertarian Party of Michigan
112 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48933

PAUL JACOB SPEAKS OUT ON CONSCRIPTION

The trial of libertarian draft non-registrant Paul Jacob has been set for May 16, 1985. Paul intends to spend much of the intervening time speaking to groups, fundraising, and addressing the media on this important issue of freedom of conscience and activity.

Libertarian Student Network (LSN) leader Greg Kaza notes that while Paul was underground for more than two years he was able to speak through his poster and newsletter, the LSN newspaper, and various media contacts. Contrary to what many liberal non-registrants have said regarding the ineffectiveness of going underground, Kaza contends that Paul is probably the best known resister in the U.S. today precisely because of his attempt to remain free.

PBS Late Night America flew Paul to Detroit January 30th for a live appearance that evening. While in the area he attended several other forums scheduled by LPM Coordinator Denise Kline. Through the LSN, Greg Kaza and Tim Nestor of Trenton will be coordinating appearances in the Detroit area for a later visit by Jacob this spring, with Denise Kline coordinating out-state events, particularly at the Universities in Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Ann Arbor. University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University engagements may also be arranged. The LSN has contacted the Detroit Draft Resisters Defense Committee and a religious organization to sponsor an event at Wayne State University, and the support of Mike Whitty has been enlisted to promote a debate at the University of Detroit between Paul Jacob and a conservative advocate of conscription.

Paul is anxious to speak to as many libertarian organizations and individuals as possible. To take advantage of this opportunity to host Paul Jacob, please contact Denise Kline with your proposed activity as soon as possible. The Jacob poster, position papers on the draft, Selective Service parody forms, and other materials are available from LPM headquarters.

MARKET ECONOMY

from page five

their capital, it kept putting into the hands of the workers more and constantly better tools to increase per capita production more and more. The system of private property and capitalism is the most productive system that has ever existed.

The Communist Manifesto was an appeal to "the masses" to envy and hate the rich. It told them that their only salvation was to "expropriate the expropriators," to destroy capitalism root and branch by violent revolution.

Marx attempted a rationalization of this course, built upon what he saw as inevitable deductions from a doctrine of Ricardo. That doctrine was in error; in Marx's hands the error became fateful. Ricardo concluded that all value was created by "labor" (which might almost be true if one counted labor from the beginning of time—all the labor of everybody that went into the production of houses, land clearing, grading, plowing, and the creation of factories, tools and machines. But Marx chose to use the term as applying only to *current* labor, and the labor only of hired employees. This completely ignored the contribution of capital tools, the foresight or luck of investors, the skill of management, and many other factors.

The Errors of Marx

The theoretical errors of Marx have since been exposed by a score of brilliant writers. In fact, his preposterous conclusions could also have been proved wrong even at the time *Das Kapital* appeared by a patient examination of the available contemporary knowledge of incomes, payrolls and profits.

But the day of organized, abundant and even "official" statistics had not yet come. To cite only one of the figures we now know: In the ten years from 1969 to 1978, inclusive, American "nonfinancial" corporations were paying their employees an average of 90.2 per cent of the combined total available for division between the two groups, and only 9.8 per cent to their stockholders. The latter figure refers to profits after taxes. But only about half of this amount—4.1 per cent—was on the average of those ten years paid out in dividends. (These figures compared with public-opinion polls taken at the time which showed a consensus of most Americans that corporate employees got only 25 percent of the total available for division and the stockholders 75 percent.)

Yet the fierce diatribes of Marx and Engels led to the Russian Revolution of 1917, the slaughter of tens of thousands, the conquest and communization by Russia of

some half-dozen neighboring countries, and the development and production of nuclear weapons that threaten the very survival of mankind.

Economically, communism has proved a complete disaster. Not only has it failed to improve the welfare of the masses; it has appallingly depressed it. Before its revolution, the great annual problem of Russia was to find sufficient foreign markets for its crop surpluses. Today its problem is to import and pay for less than adequate foodstuffs.

Yet *The Communist Manifesto* and the quantity of socialist propaganda which it inspired continue to exert immense influence. Even many of those who profess themselves, quite sincerely, to be violently "anticommunist," feel that the most effective way to combat communism is to make concessions to it. Some of them accept socialism itself—but "peaceful" socialism—as the only cure for the "evils" of capitalism. Others agree that socialism in a pure form is undesirable, but that the alleged "evils" of capitalism are real—that it lacks "compassion," that it does not provide a "safety net" for the poor and unfortunate; that it does not redistribute the wealth "justly"—in a word, that it fails to provide "social justice."

And all these criticisms take for granted that there is a class of people, our officeholders, or at least other politicians whom we could elect in their place, who could set this all right if they had the will to do so.

And most of our politicians have been promising to do exactly that for the last half century.

The trouble is that their attempted legislative remedies turn out to be systematically wrong.

It is complained that prices are too high. A law is passed forbidding them to go higher. The result is that fewer and fewer items are produced, or that black markets develop. The law is ignored, or finally repealed.

It is said that rents are too high. Rent ceilings are imposed. New apartments cease to be built, or at least fewer of them. Old apartment buildings stand vacant, and fall into decay. Higher rents are eventually legally allowed, but they are practically always set below what market rates would be. The result is that tenants, in whose supposed interest the rent controls were imposed, eventually suffer as a body even more than landlords, because there is a chronic shortage of housing.

Wages are supposed to be too low. Minimum wages are fixed. The result is that teen-ages, and especially black teenagers, are thrown out of work and on the

Continued on page eight

Social Harmony, Free Trade, Peace

What is the connection between the free market and international peace? This vital link is explored in Frederic Bastiat's **Economic Harmonies**, Richard Cobden's "Free Trade and Reduction of Armaments", William Graham Sumner's **War and Other Essays** and Ludwig von Mises' **Liberalism**.

Von Mises provides us with the concept of "interventionism" that explains how the prosperity and peace of the free market is replaced by the disruption and conflict of state intervention.

Coming up in the next issue of the **Humane Studies Review** is the third part of the series on the basic tenets of classical liberalism. The bibliographical essay, "Social Harmony, Free Trade and Peace" will open the door to the ideas of Bastiat, Cobden, von Mises and Sumner.

The **Humane Studies Review** is a research and study guide providing up-to-date analyses of classical liberal thought. If you have not yet found the time to read the works of great thinkers like von Mises, read the **Review**. The insight and knowledge gained will spark your curiosity, and it just might inspire you to *find* the time to read the works of thinkers like von Mises.

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MARKET ECONOMY

from page seven

relief rolls. The law encourages strong unions, and compels employers to "bargain collectively" with them. The result is often excessive wage-rates, and a chronic amount of unemployed.

Unemployment relief and Social Security schemes are put into effect to provide "safety nets." This reduces the urgency for the unemployed to find new or better-paid work and reduces their incentive to look. Unemployment payments, Social Security and other such safety nets continue to grow. To pay for these, taxes are increased. But they do not raise the expected revenue, because the taxation itself, reducing profit incentives and increasing losses, reduces enterprise and production. The spending and safety nets are increased. Deficit spending appears and increases. Inflation appears, demoralizing production further.

Sad to relate, these consequences have appeared in country after country. It is hard to find a single country today that has not become a bank-rupt Welfare State, its currency constantly depreciating. Nobody has the courage to suggest dismantling it or propose reducing its handouts or safety nets to affordable levels. Instead the remedy proposed everywhere is to "tax-the-rich" (which turns out everywhere to include the middle-class) still more, and to redistribute the wealth.

Guided by Profit

Let us return to our point of beginning. The eminent person that I quoted then is mistaken when he tells us that we are governed by the profit-motive of the few rather than the needs of the many. The profit-motive is simply the name for the practically universal motive of all men and all families - the motive to survive and to improve one's condition. Some of us are more successful at this effort than others. But it is precisely the profit-motive of the many that must be our main reliance for supplying the needs of the many.

It is strange that so little recognition is given to the fact that a man cannot grow richer without making others richer, whether that is his intent or not. If he invests and starts a new and successful business, he must hire an increasing number of workers, and raise wages by his own increased demand. He is supplying his customers either with a better product than they had before, or as food a product at a cheaper price, in which case they have more money left to buy other things. Even if he uses his own receipts only to increase his own consumer demand, he helps pro-

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COURTS

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in equal amounts and each judge prepares a draft opinion in his cases. Those opinions are then circulated to the other two judges on the panel.

There are three types of opinions issued by the Court. The first, and shortest, is the memorandum opinion. "Memos" rarely exceed one or two pages in length and normally just set forth the facts briefly with a statement that the trial court did not err. The memo may refer to one or two cases which are controlling. Memos are written when the trial court's decision was obviously correct (or obviously wrong) and the legal issues involved have been resolved in prior cases and are really not in doubt.

The second type of opinion is the per curiam opinion. "Per curiam" means "by the court." These opinions, like the memos, do not indicate which judge wrote the opinion. Unlike the memo opinion, it can, and often does, run more than two pages. These opinions are issued when the legal issues involved are not new, but the nature of the case warrants a longer discussion. An example might be a search and seizure case. The Supreme Court has set down the rules as to when evidence is to be suppressed and these rules are not unknown. However, the individual facts of a case usually warrant discussion by the Court of how the rules apply to the case.

The final type of opinion is the "authored" opinion. An authored opinion lists the name of the judge who wrote the opinion. These opinions are by far fewest and are used when the Court is considering a legal issue not before considered or when so much time has passed that it should be reconsidered. If a party in a civil case was advancing a new theory of why he should recover a judgment, the Court, particularly if it accepted the theory, would most likely issue an authored opinion.

The decision of what type of opinion to write is entirely within the discretion of the judge who writes the majority opinion. The question of whether an opinion will be published in a case reporter, or will be unpublished and only released to the parties involved (though they are, of course, public records and copies may be obtained by anyone who wishes one) also depends on the judges. However, there are some rules concerning which opinions are published. Memorandum opinions are never published. Authored opinions are always published. Per curiam opinions may be published, but usually

are not. The decision of whether a "PC" opinion will be published is made by the judge who writes the majority opinion. Although the decision is usually made at the time the opinion is released, it can be made any time after release and on rare occasion a PC will be released for publication years after it was initially filed.

THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court sits at the top of the state judicial system. It consists of seven justices elected in statewide elections for eight-year terms. Candidates for Justice are nominated in party conventions. To date, the LPM has nominated 4 candidates for this position (1 in 1976, 1 in 1982, and 2 in 1984). Our Supreme Court candidates normally win the most votes of all our candidates.

With a few exceptions not important here, the Supreme Court only hears appeals and only those it chooses to hear. The Supreme Court agrees to hear an appeal by granting leave to appeal after an application for leave is filed. Normally, the Supreme Court will only hear a case after the Court of Appeals has decided the case or after the Court of Appeals has refused to hear the case. However, the Supreme Court has the authority to take a case from the Court of Appeals before the Appeals Court has decided the case.

All seven justices normally hear each case. However, on occasion one or more justices may not hear a particular case for a variety of reasons. A majority of the justices determine the outcome of a case. Like the Court of Appeals, any Justice can write a separate concurring or dissenting opinion. Unlike the Court of Appeals, all of the Supreme Court's opinions are published (the theory being that if the case is important enough to be considered by the Court, it is important enough to result in a published opinion). However, the Supreme Court disposes of a number of cases by short one or two paragraph orders (these orders are also published). The orders read to the effect of "Conviction reversed and the case remanded to the Court of Appeals for consideration in light of *People v. John Doe*." Such orders are used when the decision below, usually the Court of Appeals, is clearly wrong or where a related case was decided by the Supreme Court after the Court of Appeals decision and the Supreme Court wishes the Court of Appeals to reconsider the case in light of the new case.

The only appeal from a Supreme Court opinion is to the United States Supreme

Court. The nature of appeals to the US Supreme Court and the federal judicial system is beyond the scope of this article, though may be considered in a future article.

THE BUREAUCRACY BEHIND THE COURTS

Of course, the courts consist of more than just the judges and justices. There is a vast support group to handle the clerical functions and assist the courts in carrying out their responsibilities.

First, each judge has his or her own secretary. These secretaries are picked by the individual judges and are often the secretaries who served the judge when he was in private practice. In addition to his secretary, the trial court judges (district, circuit, and probate) also have their own court reporter(s). In smaller courts, the reporter and secretary may be the same person.

Many of the trial judges also have a law clerk. Law clerks are usually either law students or licensed attorneys. Law clerks perform various functions and are more accurately described as a judge's personal assistant. Most of the law clerk's functions involve researching legal issues for the judge and reviewing briefs filed by the parties. Law clerks may also prepare

draft opinions for the judge.

No government entity is complete without a staff of clerks. For the circuit court, this function is performed by the county clerks. District courts have their own clerk staffs and the probate courts have a "Register of Probate" for each county.

Moving to the appellate courts, the Court of Appeals judges each have their own secretary and one law clerk. Although the secretary serves at the pleasure of the judge, and often stays with the judge his entire career, the law clerks, selected by the judge, may by statute serve for no more than 2 years (though the usual clerk only serves for one year).

Besides the judges and their personal staff, the Court of Appeals has three departments. The Clerk's Office is by far the largest and handles the clerical functions of the Court and accepts for filing all documents and issues the opinions filed by the judges. The Clerk's Office is the only part of the Court which communicates with the outside world, save for the judges themselves at oral argument of cases. The Court of Appeals Clerk operates three offices, in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids. His office is also responsible for the administration of the court, handling such details as the

payroll and payment of the bills.

The second largest department is the Research Department (a/k/a "Prehearing"). The Research Department is a quasi-secret unit consisting of approximately 40 attorneys and its own clerical staff. Research goes over most of the cases before the case goes to oral argument. The attorneys review the facts of the case and research the issues involved. The facts and the results of the research are put in a report which is sent to the judges involved in the case. The report also recommends a disposition of the case and the type of opinion to be issued. Of course, the final decision on the disposition and type of opinion is up to the individual judges. However, the reports serve to save the judges time in researching the cases.

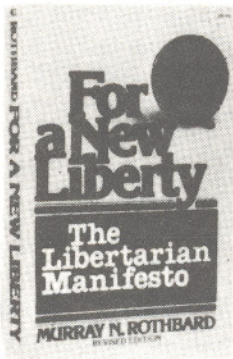
The final department of the Court of Appeals is the Commissioner's office. This group of 5 or 6 attorneys spends most of its time considering the applications for leave to appeal and preparing reports to the judges recommending whether or not leave should be granted.

Finally, the Supreme Court's staff looks much like the Court of Appeals, except that it has no Research Department. However, each Justice does have a secretary and a law clerk.

MANIFESTO (*măñ-ə-fēs'-to*) *n.* A public declaration of principles.

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MARKET ECONOMY

from page eight

vide more employment or higher pay; but if he reinvests his profits to increase the output of his business, he directly provides more employment, more production, more goods.

So let us be thankful for the successful profit-motive in others. Of course, none of us should respond "only to the forces of the

marketplace." Fortunately few of us do. Americans are not only among the richest people in the world today but among the most generous. It is only when each of us has provided for more than his own needs that he can acquire a surplus to help meet the needs of others. Voluntary cooperation is the key.

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YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING — A THIRD POLITICAL PARTY?

by Joseph Overton

You don't have to wait long after people learn you're involved with a third political party before the comments start coming. "You've got to be kidding. A third party?" or "Do you really think there is any future in it?" Sometimes people just state matter-of-factly: "Third parties can never be successful."

No doubt men and women throughout history who have worked to create change would recognize similar cries. There seems to be something about any departure from our accustomed lifestyle which causes it to be greeted with skepticism, if not simple fear. And the Libertarian Party, far from being the exception, encounters two distinct obstacles in gaining activists. One is the lack of desire for, and/or understanding of, a legal and economic structure based on respect for individual liberty. The second is doubt among those who support individual liberty that a third political party is the best way to achieve it.

While the first of these beliefs is responsible for the widespread faith in government paternalism, the second is, at present, the limiting factor in expanding the influence of the Libertarian Party. The typical person with libertarian leanings simply recognizes the uphill battles and limited electoral success of Libertarian candidates and accepts it as *prima facie* evidence of ineffectiveness. And while countless books and pamphlets are written to make the case for liberty, seldom do we answer the hard questions of method and strategy always asked by those who desire to invest their time and money in support of our common goal.

I maintain, however, that the Libertarian Party is still the best, if not the only, way to achieve this freedom in our time, but to view the role of the LP and gauge its success requires a closer examination - one that begins with an understanding of exactly what we hope to accomplish.

If our goal was simply to put people in office, we would all run as democrats or republicans, whichever happened to be more convenient. There is, however, a higher principle involved. Our goal is not to seize political "power" — the control over the lives of others — but rather to work within the political system to free

people from the damaging governmental bureaucracy that presently exists. Members of the Libertarian Party have decided to take a stand in support of an ideology called libertarianism — a personal philosophy of respect for the rights of other people to their life, liberty and property. We believe that adhering to this principle is responsible for the progress made in the United States, and that departing from it has resulted in the problems which now engage us.

We unite as a political party in support of this common principle; the name of our organization represents both the ideology of freedom and a conviction to consistently uphold it. And although our objective is to implement these principles from a position in public office, we do not exclude other methods which can be equally, or more, effective.

Success, thus defined, rests not simply on vote totals, but on an understanding of how ideas are propagated through our society and the forces which eventually implement them. There are two main elements to the Libertarian Party's strategy for achieving this success: education and political action.

The most visible way the Libertarian Party influences government policy is by successfully electing candidates to public office. Presently it is extremely difficult to be elected while maintaining consistent support for individual liberty; even so, there are approximately 50 Libertarian office holders across the country in both partisan and non-partisan positions. Most of these are local offices where they are working to allow private business or charitable organizations to supply many services now provided by government, and to do so more effectively at less cost. Whether it is the Libertarian State Legislator in Alaska who led a successful drive for repeal of the State's personal income tax, or the township supervisor in New Jersey who lowered property taxes, Libertarians in office have an excellent track record in sticking by their principles and still changing policy.

But what if the candidates don't win, which happens more often than not? Just by running on the LP ticket, our candidates play a dual role in educating and motivating people in the struggle for individual rights.

While major party candidates squirm and evade the issues, it hits most people like a breath of fresh air to hear a candidate actually give a sincere, honest, straightforward answer. If the logic of the libertarian position doesn't impress them, most everyone still comes away with a new standard for what a political campaign could be; principles rather than promises, issues instead of special interests. And it never fails that during a campaign someone will come forward and say it is the first election where they ever felt they could vote for someone other than the lesser of two evils. Libertarian candidates are attracting a new audience — those who had previously given up because the two party monopoly is incapable of doing what is necessary to solve problems.

Related to running candidates for public office is our success in influencing republican and democratic opponents. During a campaign thousands of dollars are spent by these would-be "public servants" to determine how their message is being received and how it can be modified to give broader appeal. When Libertarian candidates begin showing up in polls with even as little as two or three percent, opponents begin listening and learning. It is a relatively common occurrence for a Libertarian candidate to have the "balance of power" in a race, i.e., where his or her vote total is greater than the difference between the other two candidates. In the wake of the election the question of why those votes went to a Libertarian lingers on. You can be sure that the incumbent will pay closer attention to how he votes while in office knowing he may need the Libertarian vote come re-election.

Probably the most overlooked element in the Libertarian Party's strategy, however, is the role of educational activities. Democrats and republicans have the luxury of being "chameleon" candidates, able to change their stands on the issues to blend with currently fashionable sentiment. Libertarians, on the other hand, refuse to change their stands to mollify popular misconceptions, and are faced with the alternative of educating the public on the workings of a free market economy and the link between civil and economic freedom.

The Libertarian Party of Michigan is currently at work providing several programs in this area. First is the network of training programs sponsored by local party organizations on the Principles of Liberty. Small groups regularly meet, usually in a member's home, to study the philosophy of individual rights and discuss how it relates to current events. Participants leave this series better equipped to defend their

Continued on page twelve

THIRD PARTY

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belief in a free society, and most always more excited to put their new-found knowledge to practice.

Once well versed in political economy, members can go on to represent the party as speakers to other groups, which is the second educational emphasis. Each year Libertarian Party of Michigan members talk to thousands of high school and college students, members of community and professional organizations, and others who either invite Libertarian speakers or attend party sponsored forums.

Although this work goes on relatively unnoticed by the media, its impact is nonetheless significant. Establishment politicians, while always willing to accept a speaking engagement, are rarely able to present the case for individual liberty, even if they chose to do so. Often it is through a Libertarian speaker that people are first exposed to the subject, and for those who are thinking people, it often results in their re-evaluating the proper function of government.

Finally, the most visible area of educational strategy is the campaign work itself. If you ever glance at a Libertarian candidate's brochure or issue papers, you quickly realize that the election strategy is not to prey on ignorance, but to develop knowledgeable voters. We are willing to trade long term victory in ideas for short term power, if the choice has to be made.

Taken as a whole, this program of combining education with principled political action gives the Libertarian Party of Michigan the ability to have significant impact on government policy. As we continue to have success and growth in the areas of educating and lobbying, the result will be greater success in elections. But we must realize that until this high visibility "success" is apparent to the casual observer, effort must be made to explain the larger scope of Libertarian objectives and the many behind the scenes activities which support them. There are three things which need to be done:

- 1) MOTIVATE people to take an active part in working for political change,
- 2) EDUCATE them on the value of respecting individual rights, and
- 3) COMMUNICATE to them the effectiveness of the Libertarian Party in producing these results.

There are solid reasons why the Libertarian Party is the best way to further individual freedom — and more people need to hear them.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS: MANDATORY SEAT BELTS

On February 20th the Michigan legislature gave final approval to legislation forcing Michigan drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts or face fines. Governor Blanchard, an advocate of mandatory seat belts, is expected to sign the measure into law, taking effect July 1 of this year.

The final version of the bill would mandate a \$10.00 fine for violators which would increase to \$25.00 after January 1, 1986. Police are prohibited from stopping cars solely to check for seat belt use and can only write tickets if motorists have been pulled over for another traffic offense. An amendment to the bill made in the House and approved by the Senate would nullify the law if the federal government goes ahead with its air bag requirement.

BACKGROUND

The legislation is partly a result of the Reagan administration's threat to require air bags in cars in 1989 unless states with two thirds of the nation's population enact mandatory seat belt laws. Supported by the major automakers faced with increased expenses for air bags as well as well intentioned groups and individuals, debate on the seat belt law seemed to include every type of argument possible, from personal freedom to personal safety, from decreased insurance rates to collapse of the auto industry.

Auto industry officials maintained that the effect of requiring air bags would be "catastrophic" to the industry and that although they did not necessarily agree with mandatory seat belts, it was the lesser of two evils.

Equally, if not more compelling to many people was the safety factor itself. Although there are rare occasions where those involved in automobile accidents experience greater injuries wearing a seat belt than if they did not, the overwhelming evidence shows seat belts to be extremely effective in reducing traffic injuries and deaths. Apparently they felt that if it makes life safer and some people aren't smart enough to do it volun-

tarily, the state should force them to do it for their own good. Even before the Reagan administration edict, similar legislation had been repeatedly attempted using the safety argument similar to motorcycle helmet laws. The economic argument was also advanced that the law would help save money spent on health care and funerals, as well as a possible drop in insurance rates in a state that requires drivers to buckle up.

LIBERTARIAN VIEWPOINT

While on the surface these arguments in support of mandatory seat belt use seem straightforward, there is a hidden assumption which most people fail to realize. If we accept the notion that the state has the right to make decisions about our personal safety, the only criteria for passing self protection laws, whether they be for hang gliding or cigaret smoking, becomes an amoral cost/benefit analysis to determine the net effect on "society." What usually ends up happening in that instance is a restriction on a minority too small to defend itself against the view of the majority, as has happened with motorcycle riders and helmet laws and young men and the draft.

The most fundamental tenet of a free society, however, is that an individual has an inalienable right to their life and liberty, a right that cannot be surrendered or taken away. When we deny a person the freedom to make choices about their life that affect the safety of no one but themselves, we strip them of this right. Few people would want all the activities they engage in evaluated on the basis of how "beneficial" they are to their health or to the good of society, and rightly so. The only purpose for which force may be rightfully used is to prevent acts of aggression against another person.

The argument has been made that protecting a person from injury or death is actually increasing their freedom, since they have neither life or liberty if they are killed in a traffic accident. But again, this misses the point of what individual liber-

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ACTIVIST PROFILE:

DUANE AND GWEN STILLWELL

by Denise Kline

C. Duane and Gwendoline Stillwell celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on January 27, having spent the last four years happily reading about and working on libertarianism together. They collaborate on letters to the editor, managed each other's recent campaign, and visit would-be libertarians around the state. They have lent moral support as well as a helping hand at LPM Headquarters in Lansing and contribute to continuing Libertarian operations.

Gwen, a retired schoolteacher with 35 years experience, ran for State Board of Education in 1984. She and Duane traveled to meet with interested individuals and groups such as the Homeschoolers Association. Gwen was one of the first female negotiators for the Michigan Education Association and, she says, "One of the first teachers to appear at school board meetings!" She is currently homemaking, babysitting and managing the family farm near St. Johns, the area in which she was born.

Duane is a lifelong resident of Lansing, currently working as counter clerk at Michigan Supply Company, a wholesale plumbing distributor. He has also been a painter-decorator. His customers were impressed with his campaign for 59th District State Representative when he reminded them that they are already working five months out of the year to pay off the government and, he adds, "It looks like it's going to get worse."

Gwen, who had been a precinct chairman and pollwatcher for the Democrats at the urging of a friend, describes the couple's adoption of libertarian principles as a result of her arguments each election with then-Republican Duane. Through their extensive reading they concluded that "Neither major party was doing very well. They were both doing the same thing to us." Gwen resolved not to vote between two bad choices, and discovered an advertisement for a Libertarian educational board candidate which persuaded her to vote for all the Liber-

tarians that were on the ballot. She heard about 1980 Presidential candidate Ed Clark, and after reading his book joined the Libertarian Party. A year later in 1982 she and Duane drove up to the LPM Convention in Traverse City to check us out; they have both been Libertarians ever since. During the time they were considering the LP, they read such libertarian classics as Rothbard's *For a New Liberty*, Poole's *Cutting Back City Hall*, and later Burris' *Liberty Primer* and Holzer's *Sweet Land of Liberty*, all of which they highly recommend.

The hard-working and still energetic Stillwells hate to see all the arms of government waiting to grab so much of the wages of young people working long hours to get started. As Duane said in an advertisement directed to the M.S.U. students in his district: "It is on your shoulders to pay off the national debt plus support high social security taxes and other hidden costs of big government... The Libertarian Party offers sane and sensible solutions to our Country's problems: decreased taxes through decreased government spending, a non-interventionist foreign policy, mutual reduction of nuclear arms, and repeal of victimless crime laws."

Gwen, too, recognized the costs of social programs when she inquired, at an early period in her life when she was divorced with two children, about Aid to Dependent Children. She rejected it because she didn't like the restrictions and wanted the freedom to spend her money the way she wanted. So she and her family lived resourcefully for four years on less than what those on welfare received.


They have chosen the Libertarian Party because they have concluded that "People would do much better in a free society. Big government is draining them," Duane said. "We need freedom from government interference in order to preserve the fruits of our labor and the right to make individual choices about our lives, instead of the 'Great White






Duane and Gwen Stillwell

Father in Washington' syndrome which perpetuates dependency."

The Stillwells offer three priorities for the Libertarian Party; membership, continuing pressure on legislators by running against them at every opportunity, and other efforts toward reducing the size of government. Duane observed that we are making progress, since the news media is beginning to question the proper role of government and show concern for taxpayer dollars being wasted by Washington, Lansing or other bureaucracies. Duane is also encouraged by the fact that in the battle for Speaker of the House, Rep. Fitzpatrick thought it important to mention that he could work with everyone, including the Libertarians! Gwen and Duane Stillwell have made significant contributions to bringing the Libertarian Party that recognition, and we continue to appreciate their efforts.


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SEAT BELTS

from page 12

ty is about; it is not simply the state of being alive, but the ability to use our lives and our property to achieve the goals which we, not the state, select. You can cage an animal as a pet and keep it free from the predators of its natural habitat, free from possible starvation or disease, but it is not longer in control of its own life. And with human beings who have the ability to think and reason, how much more important is the freedom to be responsible for their own life.

Even those who agree with this position may still feel that the economic factors involved warrant the imposition of seat belt laws rather than air bags, since supposedly the choice has to be made. But the proper way to ameliorate the effect of bad legislation is not to pass more bad legislation. Pressure needs to be put on congress to block any attempt at mandatory air bags instead of passing the burden of self-protection legislation on to the states.

HOW THEY VOTED

HOUSE

Democrats For (32)—Barns, Bartnik, Bannance, Bennett, Berman, Brown, Cherry, Clack, DeMars, Dodak, Dutko, Emerson, Gubow, Harrison, Hertel, Hickner, Hollister, Hunter, Kosteva, Leland, Mathieu, McNeely, Murphy, O'Neill, G. Owen, Palamara, Porreca, Rocca, Saunders, Scott, Stabenow, Stallworth.

Democrats Against (21)—Alley, P. Bullard, Ciaramitaro, Fitzpatrick, Gagliardi, Griffin, Hood, Jacobetti, Keith, Kilpatrick, Koivisto, Maynard, L. Owen, Sietsema, Sitz, Spaniola, Stopczynski, Weeks, J. Young Jr., J. Young Sr., R. Young.

Republicans For (32)—Bankes, Bender, Brotherton, W. Bullard, Busch, Conners, DeLange, Dillingham, Dunaskiss, Ehlers, Engler, Geerlings, Gilmer, Gruse, Hayes, Hillegonds, Hoekman, Honigman, Johnson, Knight, Krause, Law, Miller, Mueller, Perakis, Power, Runco, Sparks, Strand, Trim, Van Regenmorter, Van Singel.

Republicans Against (20)—Allen, Carl, Furton, Giese, Gnotke, Hoffman, London, Middaugh, Muxlow, Nash, Nye, O'Conner, Ostling, Owvinga, Oxender, Pridnia, Randall, Stacey, Walberg,

Wartner,

Absent not or voting (5)—Bryant, Johndahl, Smith, Terrell, Watkins.

Republicans Against (7)—Arthurhultz, A. Cropsey, H. Cropsey, Fessler, Fredricks, Shinkle, Smith.

Absent or not voting (3)—DeMaso, Mack, Welborn.

SENATE

Democrats For (15)—Brown, Conroy, Corbin, DeSana, DiNello, Faust, Faxon, Hart, D. Holmes, Irwin, Kelly, Miller, O'Brien, Pollack, Vaughn.

Republicans For (10)—Binsfield, Cruce, DeGrow, Engler, Gast, Geake, F. Homes, Nichols, Posthumus, Sederburg.

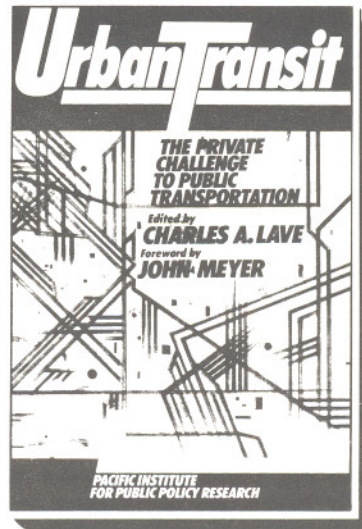
Democrats Against (2)—Barcia, McClullough.

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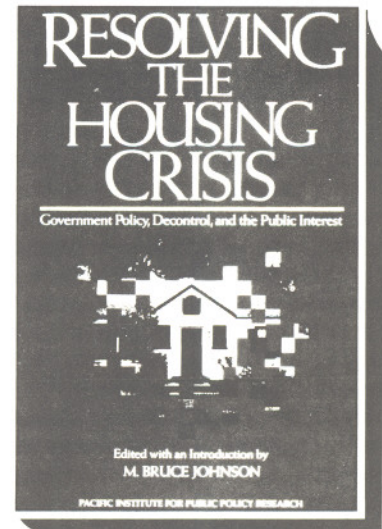
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Edited with an Introduction
by M. BRUCE JOHNSON

Across the United States, the problems of housing costs and availability have seldom before been so acute: home ownership has become virtually inaccessible to the average person; construction costs are high and rising; and government restrictions increasingly prevent real estate growth. *Resolving the Housing Crisis* is a comprehensive treatment of the increasingly serious problems in housing and construction. This volume analyzes the underlying contributing factors to the crisis, the responses in land use, housing, and construction policies, and the interaction between the crisis and the legal status of property rights. As a result of this assessment, the authors argue for substantial deregulatory housing and land use reforms.

"Resolving the Housing Crisis" is a first-rate job.... One of the most inclusive contributions to the literature I have ever had the pleasure of reading."

—GEORGE STERNLIEB
Director, Center for Urban Policy Research
Rutgers University

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PACIFIC INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

EVENTS

THE LPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE will meet on March 3 and April 14, both Sundays, at 1:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at LPM Headquarters in Lansing.

THE 1985 LPM CONVENTION is June 7-9 in Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Make plans now to attend this exciting and informative event.

LANSING/TRI-COUNTY. The Libertarian Alliance will hold a Supper Club on the first Thursday of every month for 6:30 Coctails, 7:00 dinner and 8:00 speech, discussion and meeting at David's Eagle Restaurant at 300 S. Capitol. For information, call Denise Kline at 484-2188 or Jon Addiss.

THE METRO DETROIT Libertarian Party Supper Club meets regularly in Southfield. For dates and times please contact Michael Palonous at (313) 561-1690.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY LP meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Harbor Steak House, 3251 Orchard Lake Road in Keego Harbor. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Bill Hollander.

THE WAYNE COUNTY LP meets the first Monday of each month at the Ram's Horn restaurant on Telegraph just north of Plymouth Road. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. Contact Mike Palonus.

WASHTENAW COUNTY. All Washtenaw County LP meetings will be held in the west meeting room of JoJo's restaurant across from the Briarwood Shopping Center unless otherwise specified. Dinner is from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. Business meeting is from 7:15 - 7:45. The program will start at approximately 7:45. Normally, the meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month.

THE JACKSON COUNTY LP will meet on February 21st at 6:00 pm for a dinner meeting at the Coffee Manor Restaurant (between Jackson and Vandercook Lake on Francis St.)

THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY LP meets alternate Wednesdays at WMU. For more information contact Mary Ruwart (616) 375-4959 evenings.

THE MACOMB COUNTY LP meets the 4th Monday of each month unless otherwise announced. Call 978-8710 for place, time and agenda, or subscribe to the "Macomb Libertarian," \$3 for 6 issues. Make checks payable to "Macomb County Libertarian Party," P.O. Box 406, Sterling Heights, MI 48077.

KAL Corp. is producing a video on Taxation. One of the guests is Bruce Kamps, an instructor of the Barrister's Inn Constitution Law Courses in Michigan. Lynn Johnston has been invited, and there will be one other guest. The tape will be 50-60 minutes in length. If you would like to air this on your local community access station in time for Tax Protest Day, April 15th, then contact (A.S.A.P.) Sheryl Loux, 856 Farrell, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, (616) 343-4737. The tape is available in either 3/4" or 1/2" VHS.

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

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			W.M.U.	Kurt Weber	(616) 382-6145

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Statement of Principles

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 censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all 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.

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