



THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME 13

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

OCTOBER, 1986

LIBERTARIANS ARE INDEPENDENT IN '86

To vote for Libertarian candidates in this year's election November 4, look in the Independent column for the following individuals:

- Secretary of State: Brian Wright
- State Board of Education: Denise Kline
- State Senate: Gary R. Bradley
- State House of Representatives: Charles Congdon, Dale B. Dobberstein, Lawrence Ludlow, Emily Salvette, Richard Whitelock
- Supreme Court: David Raaflaub

They are known Libertarians who have asked for LPM endorsement and were profiled in last month's Michigan Libertarian. There may be other Independents to consider as well.

You can also write-in yourself or any other libertarian or individual in order to show your desire for a freer system. As indicated in last month's newsletter, unfair ballot access laws have discriminated against libertarians and the Libertarian Party, so we are retaliating by using the means left open to us:

Every write in vote must be recorded somewhere. If 10 write ins for the same person appear in any precinct, the name must be placed on the voter tallies, potentially generating some publicity. Also, every write in name must be checked against the voter registration lists. Don't spend a lot of money. Don't aim to win. Just aim to be counted and recorded. Some bureaucrat has to do the work and a lot of county clerks may start saying that more parties on the ballot are easier to deal with than lots of write ins.

Gwen Stillwell and Mike Miller, who've done the research on write-ins have prepared the following list of write-in candidates, but they encourage you to write-in others too using full legal names of eligible registered voters.

- Governor: Timothy O'Brien
- Lt Governor: C. Duane Stillwell
- State Board of Education: Gwendoline Stillwell
- U of M Board of Regents: Bette Erwin
- MSU Board of Trustees: Michael H. Miller, Curt Hoganson
- 57th State House District: Robert G. Stepanovich
- 38th State Senate District: Joseph Jindrich
- 3rd Congressional District: Jon W. Addiss

Cliff Schwink and Tim O'Brien have promoted None-of-the-Above as an option too, although Michigan election personnel admit that they wouldn't know how to handle it. Is it their business?! Let's give it to them, Libertarians: Declare your independence in 1986 by voting against the decrepid two-party (that works as one) system, in any way that you can.

LAWMAKERS IN FRANCE PASS PRIVATIZATION BILL

The French Legislature has adopted a bill to turn 65 state-owned companies over to the private sector. The law will allow privatization of the state-owned banks, insurance companies and major industrial companies over the next five years. The 11 leading industries involved were nationalized by the Socialists in 1982.

LPM SPONSERS TWO BALLOT INITIATIVES

At the September LCC meeting, the Central Committee agreed to sponsor two ballot initiatives introduced by Tom Jones of Detroit. The initiatives will be funded separately from other LPM activities. Those wishing to contribute to either petition drive should note the purpose of the contribution prominently.

The first initiative petition is for a Constitutional amendment that will end the 180 day rule for initiative petitions. The amendment will set limits of 2 years for completing ballot initiatives and 4 years for Constitutional amendment initiatives. A prohibition on legislative proposal of Constitutional amendments during election years is also part of the proposal. Mr. Jones hopes to interest other groups of political activists to join in this initiative.

The second initiative reads "Consenting adults may in private voluntarily engage in any sexual conduct whatsoever. Any law in conflict with this law is repealed." The initiative was approved in this form after a spirited debate on an original, more restricted proposal. At present, the State of Michigan has a felony sodomy statute in effect as well as misdemeanor statutes on adultery and cohabitation. Anyone wishing to help legalize sex in Michigan should contact the LPM office.

PLATFORM OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

Introduction

While endorsing the national platform, we note that it is extremely general and addresses itself to relatively long term political goals. The purpose of the State Platform of the Libertarian Party of Michigan is to lay out a set of political proposals of greater specificity and near term viability, uniquely aimed at the political climate of the state of Michigan. The national platform remains a concise statement of the long term goals of the Party.

Privatization of Government Services

Since there is no government service, essential or otherwise, which cannot be contracted out to the private sector on a competitive basis, we encourage and actively advocate programs which PRIVATIZE services now usurped and monopolized by any or all levels of government.

The empirical proof is all around us. Such PRIVATIZATION programs have been successfully implemented throughout the USA and other countries of the world with the result being improved service and lower costs for consumers.

Economics

1. Government spending: reduce state spending by a minimum of 3% per year.
2. Reduce the Single Business Tax by 20% per year for five years and thereafter eliminate it. While opposing all taxes on business as damaging to the economy, we suggest that businesses be charged an explicit user fee for government services and that other taxes on business be tied to the degree to which a business's externalized production costs are subsidized by the state.
3. Enact legislation to maintain the ban on taxation of inventories following the demise of the Single Business Tax and extend the ban to taxation of production equipment.
4. Roll back the Equalized Value Formula for property tax assessment to 25% of the market value of the property and privatize the assessing of the value. Reduce tax rates on farm and wilderness lands.
5. Balanced budget: to prevent the legislature from running up debts to be paid in the future, place a limit on the issuance of state bonds and require a public referendum on all bond issues by the state government.
6. Sales tax: as a first step toward the elimination of the Michigan Sales Tax, extend the present sales tax exemptions to electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil.
7. There shall be no limits on the amount of energy that can be generated and sold to public utilities operating in the absence of competing suppliers.
8. Utilities: open state markets in electricity, natural gas, and telephone service to free competition.
9. Building codes: replace the present code system with construction insurance as presently done in the United Kingdom and France.
10. Unemployment: change the eligibility formula to Weeks Eligible = $1/2(\text{Weeks previously Employed})$ to a maximum of 60 weeks. Require a one week waiting period before initial benefits. We also urge the legalization and adoption of private unemployment insurance.
11. Licensing: reduce or eliminate most state licensing requirements, especially those chiefly restricting entry and competition in certain fields. We encourage the development of private accreditation agencies.
12. Personal income tax: reduce the personal rate to 3.0% from the present 4.6% by 1994.
13. Reduce welfare benefits in Michigan to no more than the average benefit among the fifty states.
14. Turn the administration of social services over to private agencies within a ten year period.

15. No person (family) whose income is below the poverty level shall have to pay state income tax.

Crime and Justice

1. Privatize the prison system with emphasis on rehabilitation and job training.
2. Revision of present criminal code to require restitution to the victim as part of the penalty for conviction. Such restitution shall take precedence over payment of penalties assessed by any unit of government.
3. Victimless crimes: repeal pertinent laws, specifically:
 - A. Seat belt and helmet laws.
 - B. The 55 mph mandatory speed limit.
 - C. Prohibition of sexual practices between consenting adults.
 - D. "Pornography" laws, i.e. any law restricting the sale of materials of a sexual nature involving consenting adults.
 - E. Legalize the sale and use of marijuana.
 - F. Repeal all laws prohibiting gambling, betting and wagering.
4. Pardons should be issued for all persons convicted solely for victimless crimes, additionally, criminal records should be expunged in such cases.
5. We call for the repeal of the Michigan Dram Shop statutes both for their effect of transferring the consequences of irresponsible actions to third parties and for their promotion of numerous police state tactics under the guise of protecting the public.
6. Evening hours should be established for all courts in all districts so the citizenry may defend themselves without unduly disrupting their lives.
7. The right of the citizen to defend his person and property being the cornerstone of a free society, we oppose any efforts to limit the ownership of firearms by members of the general public.

Education

Since the state effectively controls both funding and services for the educational system, we initially advocate an educational voucher system to provide a competitive market for services. Once this is accomplished, the funding role of the state can be re-examined.

Environment

1. Modify laws of nuisance and negligence to include damage done by air, water, noise, and radiation pollution.
2. We oppose federal plans for the diversion of water from the Great Lakes.
3. We advocate the sale, over a 10 year period, of all state property. Funds from these sales to reduce/eliminate state taxes.
4. We advocate changing the law to allow for private civil action, including class action, against any or all polluters.

Political Legislation

1. Abolish the present campaign funding system, which acts as a subsidy to the two major parties and an obstacle to minor parties and independents.
2. Eliminate "straight ticket" voting in the state.
3. Require future legislation to be written in common English so the public is not forced to subsidize the legal profession.
4. Require a roll call vote on all laws and appropriations by the State Legislature, to be published weekly and in a yearly compilation.
5. We endorse the campaign for non-partisan judicial primaries.

METRO DETROIT REPORT

by Bill Shotey

Libertarian Picnic

Sept. 7 - Emily Salvette of the Metro- Detroit Libertarians organized and hosted a very successful Libertarian Party of Michigan picnic at Stoney Creek Metro Park. Thirty-five Libertarians attended the fun event. Money was raised for both the MDL and LPM by means of an auction of donated items and a 50/50 raffle respectively. A good time was had by all.

First Meeting of MDL

Sept 25 - Today marked the first meeting of the Metro Detroit Libertarians at Oakland University, Rochester. Keith Edwards spoke on experiences from his college days to the present. His development as a promoter of Objectivism and Libertarianism was covered. Keith also sprinkled his discussion with significant government events during this period. The presentation was well received by the rapt audience of 25 Libertarians, including seven newly interested people.

Also reporting on their particular areas of expertise were the following board members of the MDL along with their phone numbers:

Organization: Emily Salvette (313) 332-7834
Education/Outreach: Larry Ludlow (313) 792-9388
Public Events: Virginia Cropsey (313) 977-6628
Press Relations: Tim O'Brien (313) 649-4236
Fund Raising: Mark Sellers (313) 247-4257

Virginia Cropsey asked all Metro Detroit Libertarians to remember that any Libertarian act is a public event. Please contact her if you write a letter to the media, call in to a talk show or act in any other way. Get the Libertarian message to the public. Please leave a message on her recorder if she is not in when you call. (313) 977-6628.

Metro Detroit Meeting November 4

A board meeting of the MDL will take place November 4 at 7:30 p.m. Emily Salvette - 322 Millington Blvd, Bloomfield Twp, will host the event. After the board meeting, there will be an election night party, including a showing of the film Brazil, a hilarious parody of Big Government. Please call Emily at (313) 332-7834 for directions and to co-ordinate refreshments. All are encouraged to attend.

Individual MDL Activities

Larry Ludlow has been a very busy Libertarian in the last year and a half. He has had about 40 letters to the editor published in the Detroit News, the Warren Weekly, the Macomb Daily, Crain's Detroit Business, Michigan Business, Fortune magazine and several other publications. He collaborated with Tim O'Brien on several editorial replies on Detroit's

ANN ARBOR LIBERTAS

The Huron Valley libertarian Supper Club will meet November 19 and December 17 at Dominick's on Monroe Street. For further information contact Jim Greenshields at (313) 665-0574.

Ann Arbor Libertarian League is looking for a few activists. The U of M student oriented group is once again organizing. Proposed projects include having a literature table in the fishbowl and bringing speakers such as American Indian Movement leader Russell Means and LP News editor Karl Hess to campus. Though the group is open to anyone, it particularly needs UM students in order to be registered with the MSA (student government). For further information contact Marie Rowe (313) 764-8840.

The University of Michigan Students of Objectivism meet every Wednesday, alternating business meetings with discussion sessions. Locations vary. Contact UMSO at 3909 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor.

Freedom is the leader

Love will follow

Liberty is the prophet

Peace fulfills

Individuality

Friendship enhances

Justice an idea

Cooperation makes real
-Chris Brockman

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channel 4. Tim O'Brien delivered one on July 28 on the topic of illegal drugs, another on August 26 about downtown Detroit's special tax breaks for a few developers at the expense of all other tax payers. Larry has had the above published in a book called *Libertese: The Language of Liberty*. Please call Larry at (313) 792-9388 for price and availability or for expert advice on how to get your letters published.

Virginia Cropsey collaborated with John Louve and David Raaflaub on a lawsuit to set aside the ridiculous 180 day petition rule on the grounds it was passed in violation of the State Constitution's quick change provision. Call Virginia at (313) 977-6628 for further information.

(Editor's note: Tom Jones of Detroit has written an initiative petition on this issue which was endorsed by the LPM Central Committee at its September meeting as a separately funded action. Look for details in a separate article.)

Tim O'Brien is sending out the first of monthly press releases. Drugs is the subject. Call Tim at (313) 649-4236 for more information.

Bill Shotey is sending out information packets to prospective Libertarians in the Detroit area. Please call him at (313) 561-0379 if you know of interested individuals.

Tri-County Libertarian Alliance

Tri-County Libertarian Alliance held a reorganizational meeting after the summer hiatus at a potluck picnic hosted by Duane and Gwen Stillwell of East Lansing. The group decided to host Judge Kallman, candidate for Supreme Court Justice at it's October 16 meeting being held at the Eagle Restaurant near the Capitol. Judge Kallman had asked for Libertarian endorsements and was well-known to several of our members. Although policy disagreements with the judge were noted, the group hopes to achieve increased understanding of libertarian views. Contact: Gwen Stillwell (517) 337-2584.

The Tri-County Libertarian Alliance will also have the pleasure of hosting Karl Hess at the Midway Motor Lodge on the evening of October 31. In addition to the topic of Technology and Freedom to be presented by Karl Hess, a pool party, optional costumes (Come as your favorite crime or your favorite libertarian!), musical entertainment (possibly live), and an after-party with crash space for out-of-towners is planned. Join us for fun and knowledge. Contact: Denise Kline (517)484-2188.

MSU Libertarians

The MSU Libertarians will meet Thursdays at 7 PM on the third floor of the MSU Union, Minnesota Room. Meetings will alternate weeks between study groups and public meetings. The MSU Libertarians study group will listen to the "Commentaries of Liberty" series by the late Robert LeFevre. Each meeting will cover one 28 minute tape followed by discussion on the material or any other subject. All meetings are open to the public at no charge. Here's the present schedule:

October 23--"Give Me Liberty, Not Equality" taped lecture by Dick Boddie, the businessman and attorney who has announced his intention to receive the first electoral vote for a black as a Libertarian candidate for President in the future, plus a self-understanding survey on temperments.

October 30--Program to be announced

November 6--"How Do You Know for Sure" study group

November 13--to be announced.

November 30--"Emotion and Motivation" study group

December 4--"Sacrifice and Molestation" study group

December 11--to be announced (among several delightful possibilities).

A well-attended organizational meeting on October 2 featured a lecture by Patrick Heller on "Beauty and Being Free" which included the playing of an original poem by Heller set to music by Kitaro. On October 9, the group heard the first tape of the LeFevre series "Communication About Freedom."

Discovery Groups Open

"Advocates" Discovery Groups to study Dave Bergland's Libertarianism in One Lesson for basic principles are being organized. If interested in joining a series of discussions contact: Jon Addiss (517)321-1200 or Mike Miller.

DOBBERSTEIN WARNS COUNCIL OF EPIDEMIC

Lansing area activist and State House candidate Dale Dobberstein addressed the October 12 meeting of the Lansing City Council. He made the following comment on their proposed law to prohibit buying, selling, and possession of "drug paraphernalia":

"A serious epidemic plagues the nation and now infects this city. A major outbreak ocured when the President declared war on drugs and is now spread by the Governor and his opponent. Many carriers are currently running for various offices. This cancer eats away at the very root of a free society where each person has the right to decide on an issue and is permitted to practice that choice. In a free society, market transactions between producer and consumer exchange mutually agreed upon goods and services, including drug paraphernalia, without intervention. It doesn't matter if a majority or minority favors or opposes the product. Neither party should be allowed to force the other to conform to its choice, for this would be immoral and illegal. Any deviation from this disease would be symptomatic of the disease totalitarianism.

Granted the abuse of anything is no good for anyone, especially the abuse of power by government at all levels which is detrimental to everyone's life liberty and pursuit of happiness. The problems and crimes associated with drugs are directly related to the illegality of these substances, which in turn fosters an unhealthy environment for consumption and interaction. Therefore the real monkey on our back is government's drive to take control of every aspect of our person and property.

It is imperative that we, the people, kick the habit before we become hooked on the big lie that our government is acting in our best interests and is concerned about our well being. It is apparent that it does not require much courage or reason to jump on this campaign bandwagon issue. This is why I stand before you tonight as a resident of Lansing and as independent candidate for the 58th district House of Representatives, one of the few voices crying out in this wilderness of insanity and say no to drug laws as well as the proposed paraphernalia law and say yes to freedom of choice."

SOUTH AFRICAN PEACE PLAN ANNOUNCED

A peace plan to solve the South African crisis has been proposed by Leon Louw, a prominent white anti-apartheid activist and president of the Free Market Foundation of Southern Africa. The plan, set forth in that country's current best-selling non-fiction book, South Africa: The Solution by Louw, calls for the adoption of a decentralized, Swiss-style canton system of government that would allow for self-rule by the various racial and ethnic groups within the country. The plan reportedly has been received with interest by South African leaders of all racial groups spanning the entire political spectrum.

The directors of Libertarian International, a human-rights association with members in 40 countries, recently awarded gold medals to both Leon and Frances Kendall Louw at their world convention in Stockholm, Sweden (August 21 - 26th) in recognition of the vital importance of the Louw peace plan and are calling on members and other private individuals concerned with a peaceful solution to the South African situation to publicize the plan and write letters to Prime Minister Botha urging the South African government to adopt the proposals in Louw's book.

Prominent American economist and educator, Professor Murray N. Rothbard states: "In a profound sense, the alternative in South Africa is Leon Louw or chaos!"

Further information on the South Africa Peace Project and LI's activities is available from Libertarian International, 9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229. Phone: (804) 740-6932.

LIBERTARIANS ARE THE MODERATES

by Michael H. Miller

It's so simple and logical that it seems obvious, even familiar. Why didn't you or I think of it before? (If anyone did, my apologies.) So what am I talking about? The extremely simple but startling realization that libertarians are the only true moderates in the political process. Though we have an "extreme" position, that is, uncompromising commitment towards individual liberty. That very commitment places us in the intermediate position, logically, between the two extremes of policy on almost every issue imaginable, those extremes being prohibition and mandatory obligation. Everybody else's politics involve making many activities either forbidden or mandatory. Our position is to do neither but to keep as many things as free as possible by letting the individual decide whether to do them or not.

This relationship can be represented graphically in a manner that will please those addicted to unilinear model of political behavior:

ISSUE	PROHIBITED	LAISSEZ FAIRE	MANDATORY
Aid Contras	Democrats	Libertarians	Republicans
School Prayer	Democrats	Libertarians	Republicans
Seat Belts		Libertarians	Democrats
Pornography	Republicans	Libertarians	
Krugerrands	Democrats	Libertarians	

As can be seen, we are always in the moderate position. The Democrats and Republicans take turns being extremist, and totalitarians are always extremist. The only activities libertarians won't tolerate are activities directed against the lives and property of individuals - murder, theft, fraud, enslavement, etc.

I've tried this idea on a few libertarians, who found it clarifying, and some non-libertarians who found it more convincing than anything they had heard before. Refinements of the idea or its graphic representation are welcome. In the meantime I propose we call it the Miller Chart.

KARL HESS ITINERARY

Karl Hess will arrive Thursday to speak at Oakland Community College followed by Friday AM appearances before about one hundred students at U of D Academy and probably at Kimball High School. Media appearances are slated for Lansing in the afternoon. MSU and UM Dearborn engagements are yet to be confirmed, but Hess will speak on Political Action and Cooperation at the NAAFA Regional Conference in Lansing on Saturday.

THE RIGHT TO BE DIFFERENT

by Nancy Summer

For 100 years, the Statue of Liberty has held up her lantern in welcome to ships entering New York Harbor. She stands on Liberty Island, only a short distance from Ellis Island where millions of immigrants on their way to a new life in America were "processed" by government immigration officials. If any of your ancestors arrived from Europe during the huge waves of immigration in the late 1800's or early 1900's, they probably were greeted by Lady Liberty.

But whether your ancestors arrived through New York, Hawaii, San Francisco, New Orleans, Miami, or across the Rio Grande, if they came willingly and eagerly to America, they came looking for a better life.

What made them leave their homelands? There are many reasons: Poverty, religious and/or political differences, famine, and lack of employment are some of the more driving reasons that caused, and still cause, people to flock to America.

It is rather odd, then, to think about some of the ideals held sacred by second, third, fourth, etc. generation Americans. Isn't it amazing that people whose parents and grandparents fled famine, today are choosing voluntary famine: (i.e. crash dieting)! The very same genetic coding that helped some immigrants survive food shortages in their homelands, today cause so much unhappiness to millions of Americans.

Consider another amazing fact. America is a nation which has prided itself on being the melting pot, a nation where ideally all differences are tolerated, even welcomed. Many of the immigrants that fled to America came because they were "different" in their homelands. Their political or religious beliefs were different, unpopular, and even illegal.



In the case of some minority groups, their ethnic heritage was different than the majority. But once again, so many of the second, third and fourth generation American have lost sight of this ideal. Some differences are not tolerated. We can go to different places of worship, we can express our political views, but we dare not look different. And for those of us who do look different, we experience the same type of oppression that drove many of our forefathers to come to America. Of course, we are not jailed for being larger-than-average. But all too often fat people today feel that they only have two choices: Starvation or life-threatening weight-loss surgery; or else a life of being ostracized and limited in opportunity. It doesn't sound much like the life our grandparents wanted for us. Perhaps this centennial celebration of Lady Liberty can serve to remind us that we have the right to be different. It is part of our heritage as Americans and as human beings. As NAAFA artist Susan Mason said on the base of her Statue of Liberty drawing:

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, REGARDLESS OF SHAPE OR SIZE

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Congdon: Electoral process unfair

By ROBREHG
Daily News staff writer
Charles Congdon's late entry into Midland County's state representative's race has one motive: to convince people the electoral process is unfair.

Whether he is criticizing the tradition of having a one-day election on a Tuesday or railing against the standard two-party system of government, Congdon's views are based on a belief that election law changes are needed to broaden the scope of political debate.

"I want to take this opportunity to make people aware of how unfair our election laws are," Congdon says. "Until this is corrected, other views cannot be expressed."

Congdon recently filed as an independent to run against 102nd district state Rep. Michael Hayes, a Midland Republican, and Democratic challenger Leo Foley.

Hayes is running in the comfortable position of being a three-term incumbent in a heavily Republican district.

Congdon has already twice lost to Hayes — two years ago as a Libertarian and again last month in the Republican primary.

While Hayes can afford the luxury of running a relaxed campaign and

Foley has taken a low-key approach so far, Congdon is using the race as a forum to discuss the need of sweeping changes in the election process.

"Ballot access is the issue; it's the only issue," Congdon says.

As a Libertarian, Congdon believes government should be greatly reduced and many public services turned over to the private sector, with other services eliminated entirely.

Congdon's theories on the need for a reduced role of government are so sweeping that conservatives such as President Reagan appear socialist in comparison.

Government should have no role in the educational process, Congdon says, and all public safety services, from fire to police, should be handled by private businesses, rather than by local units of government. The unemployed should not receive any type of financial assistance from the government, he says, because jobless benefits encourage failure.

The call for a gradual dismantling of government as it is known today has not gone over well with local and state-wide voters. Congdon and other Libertarians have consistently lost elections, often times by wide margins.

But Congdon believes people will eventually come to accept the Libertarian view, as they watch government continue to grow.

After losing the Aug. 5 primary to Hayes, Congdon said he would not seek office in the near future.

"I'll lay low for a while and let the movement grow," he said. "And when people think it's finally gotten too big, I'll get back on the ballot."

But Congdon could not resist a fluke in Michigan election law this year, which allowed 43 independents, some of whom had recently lost primary battles, to file for office by obtaining only one petition signature.

If Congdon had his way, it would always be that easy to get on the ballot. But state lawmakers have made it clear they believe it should be considerably more difficult.

Legislators this year attempted to increase the petition-signature requirement for third-party candidates from about 20,000 signatures to 30,000, but the bill became bogged down in committee.

Such efforts have convinced Congdon that lawmakers are trying to protect the two major political parties — Democrat and Republican — at the expense of public debate by those who hold more varied political views.

"It's ridiculous that we spend tax-

payer money in foreign countries to try to ensure fair elections, and even manipulate those elections, when we don't have fair elections in Michigan," Congdon says.

"We should give people as many choices as there are candidates who are willing to run," Congdon said.

There is really little difference between a Republican and a Democrat, Congdon says, and limited ballot access means few substantive changes will ever be made in government.

Those who believe alternative political parties should get ballot access only after proving they enjoy some modicum of popular support — either by obtaining a certain percentage of the total vote or through petition drives — say they want to avoid cluttered ballots.

If voters are asked to choose between an unlimited number of candidates, lawmakers say it will increase the time it takes to vote and lead to lower voter turnout.

Congdon, however, points out that eight Republicans recently ran for the same Saginaw House seat in the August primary and major party legislators never complained about having that many people running for office.

He also believes elections should be extended for two days and held over the weekend so working people have a better opportunity to vote.

YES! I like what I read and I want to:

- Join the Libertarian Party:
- Combined Michigan and National Membership ... \$25.00
- Michigan Membership Only \$15.00
- Michigan Student Membership Only \$ 5.00
- School _____
- Subscribe to the *Michigan Libertarian*, the monthly newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan \$10.00
(NOTE: All Memberships include newsletter)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature _____
Please make checks payable to:
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN
112 W. ALLEGAN
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 PHONE: (517) 484-2188

From Midland Daily News 9/10/86

The Triumph of Politics by David Stockman
Reviewed by Gary Bradley

In the acknowledgement section of The Triumph of Politics David Stockman credits several sources for transforming his manuscript into a readable finished product. This may be crediting them with too much. The book is a rambling tract on the failure of the Reagan political program from the 1980 election to Stockman's resignation from the Office of Management and Budget in August, 1985. Stockman proceeds in roughly chronological order to render his insights on the tax and spending policies that have driven the United States to the brink of economic disaster. This should have been one of the most important books of 1986, but Stockman's ability to communicate falls far short of his ability to analyze the magnitude of fiscal mismanagement in the Reagan administration.

One must wonder about Stockman's purpose in writing this book. By any rational standard, it represents his swan song from politics, but, judging from his own statements, Stockman's naivete is virtually boundless. He may actually think that a book that puts him on more Republican enemies lists than Jane Fonda is merely a way of staying in the public eye. Anything is possible from a man who spent four years in Congress and then as OMB Director was amazed to find that congressmen don't make laws, they make deals.

The major problem with this book is that the scope of the federal government is too broad for anyone without several years in the OMB or the Congressional Budget office to really comprehend. Stockman merrily skips from one bureaucratic boondoggle to the next with merely passing reference to what they are, why they shouldn't be, what they cost, and which handful of congressmen are passing out that particular favor. One would wish that he could stick to the task of relating events in broad brushstrokes and saving the details to be explored fully in separate polemics on the vileness of particular programs. If the book is meant to incense Americans about the waste of government, it fails for the same reason Stockman's spending reduction programs failed; without gathering a constituency against particular programs, the vested interests will always prevail in the cloakroom and the local bar.

If the book had not tried to mix ideology with recollection, it would have all come out more like the section on the President and the pony where the mixture of irony and allegory are delightful. The best part of the book is Stockman's assessments of his colleagues in the administration and Congress. Some of the more glowing gems are: "For Mike Deaver ... reality happened once a day, on the evening news."; "Jim Wright was a snake oil salesman par excellence". Additionally he paints a portrait of Donald Regan as a man obsessed with personal power and privilege above anything, including the economic health of the country. The entire Reagan cabinet is characterized as people who are brilliant analysts of public relations and media manipulation but who can't seem to grasp complicated concepts like arithmetic. Stockman's portrait of the President stops short of calling Ronald Reagan a senile old dottard, but not far short.

David Stockman appears to be a man with an exceptionally acute understanding of both the intricacies and absurdities of the American government. Unfortunately he has failed to put these perceptions in a compelling form for public consumption. One can only hope that somewhere a competent editor is planning to use Stockman as the chief contributor of some fiery and much shorter tract on the scandal of government spending policies. Until then, The Triumph of Politics is like panning for nuggets in a large, muddy river. It can only be recommended for those with a lot of patience.



4 Nov.: Election Day - vote for your favorite libertarian(s) . . . early and often. Write-in or Independent!

LIBERTARIAN WEEK 1986

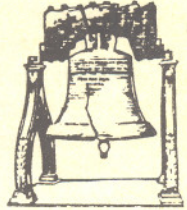
Author, speechwriter, journalist, welder
Cannes Film Festival winner, & LP News editor

KARL HESS

On
"Liberty as a Way of Life"
and
"Liberty and Technology for the
Future"
In
Lansing

At Midway Motor Lodge
7711 W. Saginaw
Dinner at 7:30 with Karl Hess
followed by musical entertainment,
pool party and costumes optional
and after-party/overnight.

Friday, October 31



Southfield

At Southfield Holiday Inn
26555 N. Telegraph Road
Enjoy cocktails at 7:00
7:30 Dinner with Karl Hess
Live guitar music,
recorded dance program
and door prizes.

Saturday, November 1

Banquet or Dinner Party @ \$20
Group Discounts before October 21:
3 for \$50 or 7 for \$100
Make your reservations NOW to be assured
of a space at these exciting events.

Students, Libertarian Wk. volunteers, and others
inquire at LPM Hdqrs. for special speech rates.
Available ONLY as space permits.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN
Libertarian Party of Michigan
112 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan 48933

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BALLOT enclosed for Members
Nonmembers, please Join or Subscribe now

Dated Material

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