



THE MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME 14

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

APRIL, 1987

TAX PROTESTS KICK OFF BALLOT DRIVE '88

By consensus of the Libertarian Central Committee of the LPM, the 1988 ballot drive will be kicked off with tax protests on **Wednesday, April 15**. There's a \$2,000 financial incentive from the National Ballot Access Committee to complete the ballot drive by August 15, 1987.

Libertarians traditionally brigade at post offices in Royal Oak, Metro-Detroit, Kalamazoo, and Lansing areas. Armed with anti-tax, pro-freedom literature and popular picket signs such as "Honk if you hate taxes," we have always been well-received by the public on this day of reckoning.

This year we will ask for petition signatures in addition to sharing the righteous indignation of last minute taxpayers. And post offices are public property so no one can legally stop our political activities. (However, avoid blocking entrances.)

To petition in Detroit's tax protest event, contact Virginia Cropsey at (313) 977-6628. Other times contact coordinators Bill Shotey (Metro), Judy Shultz (Oakland) at (313) 656-1139 evenings and weekends, Evy Waymkier (Wayne) at (313) 562-6212, Chad or Karen Colopy (Michigan Ballot Access Committee Chair) at (313) 363-5508, or Emily Salvette (LPM Secretary). Much guidance should be available from this seasoned group which has committed 14,400 valid signatures.

Flint Does It with Flowers: Flower farm



Winger, Means, Raaflaub, Bradley, Greenshields, Grund and Colopy after Lobbying--Photo by Kline

"marketeer," Cliff Schwink has coordinated volunteers from Flint, Clio, Lansing and welcomes volunteers from Metro Detroit to petition on the busy Saturdays before Easter, Mother's Day and Memorial Day—April 18 and May 9 and 31, respectively. Cliff predicts 1,000 signatures per day from the busy market between the hours of 8-5:00. Dave Gillie may host out-of-towners who prefer to come in the night before. Call Dave at (313) 686-1200 or Cliff at (313) 686-5539 to get involved.

In Lansing Libertarians will deploy themselves at downtown and Collins Road (main) post offices in the evening and possibly in East Lansing mid-afternoon. Other plans include petitioning movie lines and campuses. Contact Dale Dobberstein at (517) 323-2400 days. Ace petitioner and a former national ballot drive field coordinator Denise Kline, is available to train and work with petitioners by arrangement in Lansing, Flint's Farm Market, Detroit's Eastern Market, Upper Peninsula and elsewhere.

Ann Arbor activists are also expected to take advantage of their campus environment for successful petitioning. Contact David Raaflaub. **Midland area** volunteers may contact Janet Parkes. Other coordinators are urged to volunteer to Chad Colopy.

All of us would be glad to hear from anyone else willing to volunteer to petition.

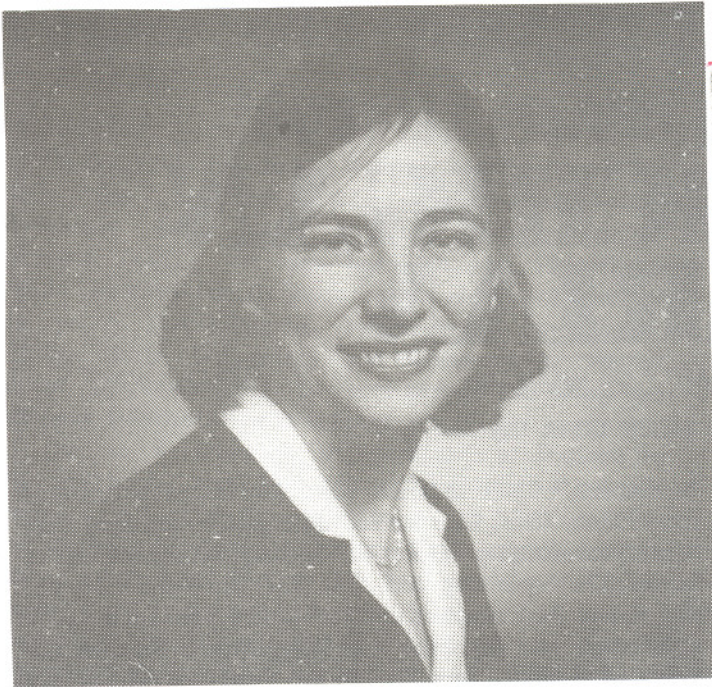
MIDWEST CONVENTION OPPORTUNITIES

April 24-26, 1987. "The Constitution of Liberty." LP of Illinois. Speakers will include Norma Jean Almodovar, Russell Means, Ron Paul, David Friedman, Carol Moore (peace activist and coordinator of Pro-Choice Libertarians), Joe Schwieterman (deregulation researcher), Dr. Don Billings (Farm Bureau economist and author on industrial planning), Steve Givot and Gerry Walsh (Libertarian Village Trustee). Contact Lyn Tinsley (312) 297-8219.

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May 15-17, 1987. Libertarian Party of Michigan 1987 Convention in Midland. Speakers will include Ron Paul, Russell Means, The Rapp Group, George Leaf and others. Contact Janet Parkes (517) 631-7396.

May 30-31, 1987. Regional Convention for Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana. Featuring Norma Jean Almodovar, Peter Breggin (Psychology of Freedom), Rebecca Shipman (Libertarian feminist), and others. Contact Ann Leach at (513) 489-7644.

ACTIVIST PROFILE: JANET PARKES
OF LIBERTARIAN DESIGN



JACOB DEBATES AIR FORCE COLONEL

by Bill Shotey

The Metro-Detroit Libertarians are proud to have hosted Paul Jacob March 14-16. Paul Jacob is one of the draft resisters who went to jail rather than register with the Selective Service. Jacob spent five months in jail for his "crime." He did not refuse to defend his country, of which he is a proud member. He did not turn coward in the face of the enemy. What Jacob did do is to refuse to sign a paper which he believed amounted to involuntary servitude on his part.

The following is a list of Jacob's activities in the Metro-Detroit area. Thanks to Jacob's hosts, coordinators, and media liaisons, which included Bill Shotey, Mark Sellers, Emily Salvette, Virginia Cropsy and Bob Roddis.

On March 14, Jacob did a taped interview on "The Russ Gibb Show" at the Cablevision studio in Dearborn and was interviewed by Gale Southworth, "The Michigan Daily," U of M's student newspaper. The day concluded with a pizza and beer reception for Paul Jacob in Dearborn.

Jacob's tour de force was the March 15 luncheon debate with a U. S. Air Force colonel at Selfridge Air Force Base. It was followed by a reception in Utica at the home of Mark Sellers, during which a phone interview was conducted by Chuck Wilbur, News Director, WBRB, Mt. Clemens.

On March 16, Jacob had phone interviews with: Michelle Snyder, WJR Radio; Lisa Berry, WXYT Radio; and Beverly Wood, WAAM, Ann Arbor.

Paul Jacob also had the opportunity to speak to seventy-five engineering students at the U of M Dearborn campus at 1:30 p.m. He was interviewed by John McCulloch on WYXT Radio prior to addressing the Monday night meeting of the Metro-Detroit Supper Club at Ryan Road House, 3950 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren.

Janet Parkes, currently serving as the Libertarian Party of Michigan's first woman chair, is a professional environmental designer. She serves as project manager for her Midland-based business, Parkes and Associates, and has lent her expertise at managing people and materials to the LPM this year.

Office design and management philosophies have paralleled the "megatrends" (Naisbett's books Megatrends or Reinventing the Cooperation would be instructive) toward more libertarian political organization. "Theory has moved from one that is basically authoritarian...to one that adds the importance of...autonomy and entrepreneurship throughout the rest of the organization." Contemporary design reflects a less authoritarian and more participatory, more interactive structure. It "reflects the importance of the worker by giving a greater majority more privacy," said Parkes in a feature interview on businesswomen in the Midland Daily News.

Belief in the individual has been a theme in Janet's life, work and political campaigns. In her run for 102nd State Representative, she contrasted other candidates who tell you that they know what is best for you with her position "that you, better than any politician, know what is best for your life."

Janet Parkes' beliefs in freedom preceded the Libertarian Party, originating in her high school reading of Ayn Rand. They led her to political involvement while at Central Michigan University in the Students for Objectivism in 1971 and 1972. Before the Libertarian Party, these students were also involved in Young Americans for Freedom and College Republicans. Janet transferred to Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids and later worked in Gladwin and as Allied Office Interiors' Design Director in Bay City, while constantly remaining in contact with the Libertarian movement.

As chair, she has designated goals of ballot access ("That's when we have greatest activism."), membership growth, fund raising (for the environment and support that it takes to do our work), and issue development. The 1987 state convention in Midland, "Mission: Freedom," which Janet has designed through the Rapp Media Workshop and other activities, will further these professional and political goals.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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Lawful plunder can be taxing



Kurt Weber Columnist

On April 14 of every year the largest organized crime syndicate lays claim to nearly 40 percent of all working Americans' incomes. This claim to innocent people's income is backed by force, as would be expected. The organized crime syndicate I refer to goes by the name of "the state" or "the government," and the euphemism of its extortionistic practices is "taxation."

Theft is another word that may be used to define the extortion normally referred to as taxation. This theft, as syndicated columnist James Sobran has said, is "the greatest practical problem facing us at the moment . . . (because) there are no principled limits on the state's right to take. The greedy state always professes high motives—compassion, the general welfare, emergency aid—for its depredations."

But for whatever reason the state uses to justify its actions, taking something from people against their will still falls under the definition of theft.

In 1874, Supreme Court Justice Samuel F. Miller underscored this truism. He concluded that in a majority opinion "you lay with one hand the power of government on the property of the citizens and with it to bestow it on favored individuals . . . is nonetheless robbery because it was done under the forms of law and is called taxation." Ironically, this decision was written just two years after President Lincoln's income tax, used to finance the North's involvement in the Civil War, was repealed.

Frederic Bastiat, a French economist, statesman and author during the early 1800s, described taxation as "legal plunder." He devised a simple test for identifying what was and what was not legal plunder. Bastiat said one should ask oneself "if the law takes from some

persons what belongs to them and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime." Bastiat continued, saying that if legal plunder were not "abolished immediately, it (would) spread, multiply and develop into a system."

There can be no denying that legal plunder has been systemized in the United States—a federal income tax has existed for 73 years.

There can be no denying that this systemization has spread and multiplied—the average worker toils for two hours and 40 minutes of every workday to earn the money required to pay federal, state and local taxes. If every penny earned from the first day of the year went directly to the government, the average worker in 1983 finished

working to pay his taxes on May 2. That's over four months of work just to pay taxes! In 1930 the average worker finished earning enough money to pay his taxes on Feb. 14.

Extortion is yet another word that one could easily use to define the practice of taxation. This may seem an extreme comparison and a strain on the laws of synonyms, but consider its definition to a paragraph which appeared in a Michigan daily newspaper. In 1975, "a contrite IRS apologized for threatening to seize the assets of about 10,000 companies after a computer error showed they failed to pay \$300 million in withholding taxes." The definition that could apply to this situation is "the wrongful taking of a person's money or property without his consent by the use of threat or violence or under color of office." Such is the definition of extortion.

To condone the act of taxation because it is the law (even more realistically, because it is the 16th amendment) is to fall prey to the myth that "anything lawful is also proper. This belief is so widespread that many persons have erroneously held that things are 'just' because the law made them so. At one point in history, the American people approved of slavery even to the point of putting it in the Constitution. Because the law permitted this despicable behavior to continue does not make it 'right.'"

If a law was entered into the Federal Register tomorrow legalizing murder, the barbaric act would be no less moral than it is today. The terms "just," "moral" and "right" do not always coexist with the words "legal" and "law."

If any individual or group of individuals attempted to do what the government does—that is, claim a right to another's property or income with the threat of force or violence to support that claim—they would face prosecution for a criminal act in a court of law.

Yet, an organization of individuals calling itself "the government" has conveyed upon its collective self rights that individuals are forbidden from exercising. To paraphrase an old saying, this is a perfect example of the whole being more equal than the sum of its parts.

Imagine the Catholic Church automatically deducting 20 percent from your paychecks to fund a social program run by the Vatican or a street gang automatically taking 20 percent for control of turf. We would not stand for the right of either group to automatically take our money.

Then why do we allow the state to do it? (Especially when it wages not street wars but entire country wars for control of turf.)

Thomas Jefferson warned us years ago that an active government "is always oppressive." The genesis of state oppression is taxation. Sobran made note of this in his column when he said, "The greatest danger to freedom comes . . . from the rapacity of the state itself. Tyranny begins with expropriation." The expropriation Sobran was making reference to was taxation, the government's version of theft.



Reprinted with permission of Kurt Weber. Kurt has been Bergland coordinator, national LP petitioner, U.N. intern, libertarian scholar and friend. Send letters to Kurt through May: c/o Schenk; Viersenerstr. 112; 4050 Mon chengladbach 1; West Germany.

Feel free to pass on this article substituting your address for contacts.

LIBERTARIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE (LCC) TO MEET APRIL 12

April's LCC meeting will be held in Lansing at Apt. #8, 916 W. Cavanaugh (Southeast of Holmes and Logan)) at 1:00 on Sunday, April 12.

Attendees are invited to potluck brunch beginning at 11:00 AM at the same location. Petitioning practice may follow. Everyone is welcome.

LCC ACTIONS March 15

-Treasurer to submit monthly reports facilitated by change from cost to accrual basis accounting.

-Fundraising focus on ballot drive with Bob Stepanovich of Lansing and Bill Shotey calling and Dale Dobberstein (Lansing) responsible for letter follow-up.

-Membership chair Salvette reported Michigan 6th largest in nation as of 12/31/86 with 33 additional memberships since. This entitles Michigan to a Platform delegate at the National Convention and if we move to 5th to a Credentials delegate too.

-Convention chair Parkes has lined up Ron Paul, Russell Means (who'll be doing a pre-convention media tour), George Leef, Brian Wright and others for State Convention in Midland. Gary Bradley will chair Platform Committee and Dale Dobberstein chairs Bylaws.

-Ballot Discussion: Vice-Chair Kline reported consensus with quorum at House Committee hearing on HB4090 agreed to change LPM ballot proposal to allow filing fourth month before general election to be consistent with National policy and court cases verified by Richard Winger. Salvette motion for third month confirmed action.

Congdon reported HB4090 before Senate Government Operations Comm. chaired by John Engler. Contact Engler's assistant, Peter Kopke (517)373-9480 regarding Bill.

Ballot access chair Chad Colopy to print petitions; April 15 to start. Motion by Grund to allow Chad and Emily to open separate ballot access account.

-Support for Turney decision to replace National computer which is subject of NatCom mail ballot.

-WANTED: Volunteer media specialist who can coordinate Press work for LPM. Contact Janet Parkes (517)631-7396. Other volunteers appreciated too.

-Policy on LPM Press Releases on issues of concern to members:

- 1) members submit copy to Emily Salvette for approval/editing (322 Millington Blvd.; Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013);
- 2) Emily will produce and mail releases to state (or local, if appropriate) media;
- 3) until the financial condition of the Party improves, requests for releases must include a \$15.00 contribution for copying/postage.

Local groups requested to send media lists to Emily.

METRO DETROIT LIBERTARIANS TO HOST RECEPTION FOR RUSSELL MEANS

Wednesday, May 6, 7-10 PM

Dearborn Civic Center, Rooms J & K

Civic Center located at SW corner of Michigan and Greenfield (entrance off Greenfield). Refreshments served. Address will be given by Mr. Means.

ADVANCE TICKETS \$5.00, 3 for \$12.50. Send ticket request to: Marie Wyszomierski
Tickets at Door: \$6.50 25725 South River, #5
Information: Emily Salvette (313)332-7834 Mt. Clemens, MI 48045
(313)465-4785

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Mail to 322 Millington Blvd.; Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.)

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ County _____
New Member or Renewal (circle one)

Combined Membership (MI and National) @ \$25.00 ___

Michigan Membership only @ \$15.00 ___

Michigan Student Membership @ \$5.00 ___

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 _____

Contribution to Ballot Access/Petition Fund ___

Contribution to Operating Fund ___

**A SPEECH TO THE EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL:
THE PROPOSED HANDGUN ORDINANCE**

by Alexander Bolt

Fellow citizens, I come before you here tonight to implore you to put down this notion of further restrictions on or the banning of handguns in this fair city. As I know of no looming handgun menace in East Lansing, and I'm sure that none can be substantiated, I can only conclude that the proposed ordinance is the result of a trendy faddism on the part of some council members and those who would reinforce their efforts. Now, for someone to want to be stylish in response to some fad is all right by me and is partly what freedom is all about. But the freedom to be trendy or faddish is trivial when compared to basic and fundamental freedoms such as the right of the people to possess firearms, including handguns.

Now, whatever the origin of this assault on the people's freedom, it appears to derive from two sources at the local level: one being, that right- or wrong-minded do-gooders suffer from the all too typical elitist perspective that they know what is best for the people and society in general, and two, that others suffer from an irrational fear perpetuated by the media in general, and as a result react emotionally in an attempt to achieve a dubious security of sorts. And I do mean dubious. If someone who isn't a drug dealer in East Lansing is afraid of handguns, then it's obvious that that person will find something to be afraid of no matter what is banned or eliminated in East Lansing. And please don't raise the specter of handguns used in rape as we all know that all it takes is a bestial personality to commit that act, not some crazed Rambo with a .44 Magnum.

You must all understand that the issue of the People's right to possess weapons of any nature is as old as civilization itself. It was Plato who said with the words of Socrates, "... a despot will use an emotional pretext to confiscate the weapons of the people." Now, he was talking about swords and spears, but the meaning and intent of the message is as clear today as it was to him around 400 B.C.

I realize that the people who advocate a ban on handguns do not consider themselves to be tyrants any more than I do. What must be understood is that assaults on freedom are rarely straightforward affairs, especially in a supposedly free society. The assault takes place covertly and insidiously by lulling the people into a state of obedient apathy or emotional reaction usually through the honest and sincere efforts of persons not unlike those of you who would ban or restrict handguns here tonight.

And so, if after all is said and done here tonight, there are still among you those who would try to push this ordinance through, then I challenge those persons, who no doubt would profess to believe in democracy, if not in the Right of the People to retain the means to remain free, to at least demonstrate their democratic inclinations and to allow this issue to be decided by the people in the form of a referendum in the next election. Thank you.

THE RIGHT TO CONTROL ONE'S CREATIONS

by Chris Brockman

Mike Marotta presented a dilemma in the last issue of The Michigan Libertarian, to wit: the property rights of a person who owns a copyright conflict with the property rights of a purchaser of a copyrighted work, who is prohibited from copying it. Mike solved the dilemma by denying the propriety of copyrights.

The reason given for his dismissal of copyright is that copyright gives its holder the ability to control the use of the work under copyright. Since this ability is a necessary condition for ownership of property, Mike apparently believes that the kinds of things which are copyright-able cannot, in fact, be property.

If he did consider such things as literary works, songs, software, etc., to be property, it must be assumed that, as a good Libertarian, Mike would not deny novelists, poets, songwriters, and software programmers the right to control their own property.

The idea that the products of the mind (e.g., a novel) cannot be property, while the products of the hand (e.g., a blank paper book) can is arbitrary, unjust, inconsistent, and counterproductive. Any person who desecrates taxes because they steal one's labor/time and are thus slavery, must recognize the even more cruel enslavement entailed by the expropriation of one's imagination and creativity.

The dilemma Mike presented disappears of itself in a cooperative and "bloodless" manner with the introduction of the concept of contract. When one buys a copyrighted work (i.e., one that someone specifically claims as property), he or she does so knowing that certain limitations on its use are part of the deal. (For a price one can also buy the copyright.) The purchaser makes an implicit contract with the owner of the material.

If such proprietary control over the work by the owner of the copyright is unacceptable to the prospective purchaser, he/she is free to decline to make the deal. He or she is free to create his or her own novel, song, software! That the state is the agent of enforcement of copyrights makes them no less valid than it does prohibitions of murder.

If this concept of the rightness of ownership and control over the creative products of one's mind still rankles, try this. Read the dramatic and entertaining and copyrighted treatment of it in Ayn Rand's The Fountainhead. See if you'd tell Howard Rourke there is no right to control over one's creations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Mike Marotta for beginning this inquiry for which he admits he's unsure of the solution, and to Chris Brockman for a swift response.

MEANS FOR PRESIDENT

"RUSSELL MEANS FREEDOM IN '88"

Russell Means is a 47 year old Oglala Lakota Sioux who is the articulate and charismatic co-founder and leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM). He was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and spent much of his youth in California. He worked his way through Arizona State University and became a CPA. He has worked professionally in accounting, and today has business interests which support him.

He is a champion of the rights of Indians in the Americas, and lectures extensively about the Indian's struggle for survival. He has supported the Miskito Indian resistance in Nicaragua and has taken a shrapnel wound in the process. "In my pursuit of personal freedom I have been shot, stabbed, bombed, strafed and jailed by various government agents."

He led the occupation of Wounded Knee back in 1973, and has said that this was the catalyst that served to push the Indian cultural revolution, which evolved into the ongoing search for self determination. He has been searching for years for the political affiliation that would not compromise his sense of self esteem, self responsibility, self

reliance and personal freedom. He believes he has found this in the Libertarian Party. When addressing the issues, he can speak from the heart as a traditional Indian, and his statements are invariably consistent with Libertarian principles. "I have discovered that I am a Libertarian and we're all Indians." He believes that the Indian experience is a good example of what a hundred years of welfare and government management can do to people who are fundamentally self reliant. It has decimated the Indian character. "I see people without will ... the result is all of the constant horrors of poverty that we suffer from." His solution? When running for the presidency of the Oglala Sioux Nation, his platform was, "...to get rid of every federal agency and state agency on this reservation and we'll do everything on our own. I mean overnight - there wasn't going to be any gradual transition."

Russell Means' headquarters will be established in Denver, CO. For additional information or to contribute time and/or money, contact Honey Lanham, 1412 W. 9th St., Austin, TX 78703, (512) 320-0801 (H), (512) 328-8822 (W).

Gillies

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CULTURE n 1: CULTIVATION 2: the act of developing the intellectual and moral faculties esp. by education 3: expert care and training 4: enlightenment and excellence of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training 5a: a particular stage of advancement in civilization b: the characteristic features of such a stage or state

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