

# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Jan/Feb. 1988

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 15, Number 1

## Michigan Imposes Income Tax On Children

Under a little-known provision in the new state tax law, any child who earned more than \$1 in 1987 and is claimed as a dependent must file a 1987 state tax form.

The change is expected to affect hundreds of thousands of paper carriers, babysitters, mowers of lawns and washers of cars, among others, who weren't held liable for taxes before, according to a state Treasury Department spokesman. It even applies to interest on children's savings accounts.

Previously, dependent children who earned less than \$1500 were excused from filing or paying state taxes.

"It's not going to make parents real happy, now that they have to fill out forms for their kids, too," said treasury spokesman Robert Kolt in a masterpiece of understatement.

Kolt said the change means an extra \$40 million to state coffers, which includes additional taxes from 540,000 young dependents who already pay taxes, but will now pay even more.

The tax change, approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Blanchard late last year, is intended to coincide with federal tax revisions, Kolt said. The effect at the state level is that any child who earns anything must file a tax form.

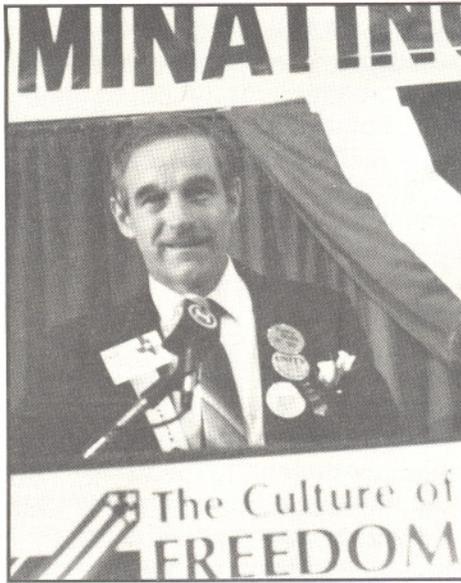
State officials did not comment on what enforcement steps might be taken against young "tax cheaters."

*[Editor's Note: If my 9-year-old operates a Lemonade stand, will the cost of lemons be deductible?]*

## Ron Paul Off And Running

by Evy Warmbier

Dr. Ron Paul recently returned from a campaign trip to Massachusetts where he spoke at Harvard and Dartmouth and was given equal time with Paul Simon on the Morning Newsmakers Forum at the National Press Club. Dr. Paul's message for freedom was well recorded in articles in the Manchester Union Leader and the Concord Monitor which also ran a large color photo of him. He was welcomed with enthusiasm when new Ron Paul support groups were formed at Harvard, University of Massachusetts at Boston, MIT, Brandeis, and Bently colleges. Dr. Paul also was a guest on the Gene Burns radio show in Boston. He



was originally scheduled to speak for one hour. He stayed by popular demand for four hours.

Dr. Paul will be appearing in Michigan on February 23rd at a *Constitutionalist* meeting at the Henry Ford Library Auditorium on Michigan Ave. in Dearborn at 7:00 p.m.

*[Editor's Note: Late word is that our Presidential candidate will be taping a full hour interview with William F. Buckley on "Firing Line". The show is tentatively scheduled to air on Feb. 28th at 1:00p.m. on PBS affiliate Ch. 56 in Detroit]*

We have a great deal of work to do, but we will be guided by the political expertise from the

*Continued on page 11*

## LP Certified For Ballot

The Libertarian Party will be represented on the 1988 national election ballot in Michigan. In a meeting held last December 15, the Board of State Canvassers certified the signatures collected by the Party, authorizing the LP for inclusion on the ballot next November. 19,851 signatures of registered Michigan voters were collected between April 15 and August 30, 1987, and turned over to the Secretary of State on August 31.

"We collected 22% more than the 16,313 we needed to qualify for ballot status and we did it in just 137 days -- well in advance of the 180 day limit set by law," observed Emily Salvette, MLP Secretary and coordinator of the successful drive. 7,000 signatures were collected by LPM volunteers with the balance being made up by paid petitioners. Over \$8,000 was contributed to the effort by LPM members

*Continued on page 7*



# MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Timothy J. O'Brien  
Editor

The *Michigan Libertarian* is published six times a year as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, and is sent to all members and subscribers. Subscriptions are available for \$10 per year. Complimentary copies will be sent to interested persons for two issues.

Articles submitted for publication are welcome and should be type-written double-spaced and signed. Advertising is available at \$3 per inch for camera-ready copy. All materials and information submitted for publication must be received by the first of the month preceding the desired issue and sent to: *Michigan Libertarian* 322 Millington Blvd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013.

## 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 Committee consists of one representative from each county.

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## From The Editor...

Tim O'Brien

# Liberal Appeal

There has been a trend in the libertarian movement of late -- in my opinion, long overdue -- to make a more deliberate attempt to disseminate our ideas among the public at large. Marshall Fritz has observed that we should, by now, have had enough of the "*Whining and Dining Club*." Andre Marrou has recommended that we "look beyond our perennial debate over how many libertarians can dance on the head of a tax collector!" They have suggested that, if we are to be successful, we must reach the opinion leaders in our society -- individuals who fall into three broad categories: Media, Entertainment and Acedemia.

We have, to this point, concentrated most of our efforts on reaching those in media for the very sensible reason that it is they who control the means of mass communications. Unfortunately, this group, by its very nature concerned with reflecting the current beliefs and values of the majority, will necessarily be the last of the three groups to respond to the winds of change. We have been ignored by those in media because they perceive us (correctly) to be a cart in search of a horse.

Those in entertainment respond much more quickly to new ideas. They are, by their nature, always in the market for fresh material. And we have seen significant progress on this front. Films such as *Ghostbusters*, *Back to School* and *Brazil* show unmistakable libertarian influence.

But the first to respond to ideas that are outside of the mainstream will be in acedemia for the simple reason that there-in lies the strongest incentive for innovation -- the successful in their profession are those who are at the forefront of new ideas. It is a truism on university campuses that one must either "publish or perish." In this arena we are clearly succeeding. In today's Political Science and Economics departments socialism is all but dead and libertarianism (or, at least, free market economics) is plainly on the ascendancy. Three times in the last six years the Nobel prize for economics has gone to a radical proponent of market systems. Further, this is the group which will ultimately have the most profound influence on society. It was, after all, the popularity of socialism among academics around the end of the last century that created an environment ripe for Roosevelt and other statist.

An astute question at this point would be: Do these three groups of "opinion leaders" have anything in common? And the answer is that they do, indeed, share one important characteristic. They belong, by and large to one of the four personality types described

*Continued from page 4*

# Michigan LPers Impacting Local Politics

by Virginia Cropsey

**Kalamazoo.** Long-time Michigan LP activist Sheryl Loux has some good news and some bad news. The good news is that "privatization" and "libertarian" are becoming buzz words in Kalamazoo. In November, Taxpayer Protection Committee member Ron Reisterer was elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission and has proposed a cost-savings privatization study by Robert Poole's Local Government Center. Poole is editor of Reason magazine.

A local citizen pledged the \$14,000 to fund the study which would:

- Conduct a service-delivery cost analysis comparing the city to the private sector;
- Develop employee treatment strategies and incentives for public employees to favor alternative service-delivery;
- Perform a legal analysis to determine barriers to privatization;
- Develop strategies to remove or reduce these barriers;
- Identify alternative service-delivery possibilities that may have been overlooked in each section of each division of each department;
- Estimate potential savings that could be achieved if any of the identified services were privatized.

Mayor Edward Annen, Jr. wrote an opinion column appearing in the Kalamazoo Gazette opposing the study. "It has become apparent that the real issue before us as a commission and as a community is whether this city is to adopt 'Libertarian principles' or a more pragmatic course. Under the former, you will be largely on your own. Your tax dollar paid may be less, very probably your household expenses to achieve the same service will be increased. And, most importantly, it will be you against a large, privately owned industry holding a monopoly position." [Editor's Note: As opposed to: "you against a large, publicly owned government holding a monopoly position."] The mayor opposed the study because, he said, the Local Government Center has a libertarian bias and, even though it would be privately paid for, city employee time would be needed to provide the information.

Reisterer's three-quarter page rebuttal gave a detailed explanation of privatization and cited the bias of studies the city had previously funded. "Am I a heretic (or, to use the mayor's word, 'Libertarian') for believing that we cannot afford an income tax or the Arcadia Creek project?" asked Reisterer.

Loux, who once ran on the Taxpayer Protection slate with Reisterer and Libertarians Mary Ruwart and Kurt Weber, said that the bad news is an attempt to enact a Kalamazoo city income tax. "Raising taxes is a detriment to business coming in," the Gazette quoted her as saying. A vote is scheduled for April and Loux has vowed to defeat the proposal.

**Sterling Heights, Warren.** Sterling Heights and Warren are also studying income tax proposals. Virginia Cropsey has contacted the Local Government Center and is in the process of providing information to secure local backers for studies similar to those planned for Kalamazoo.

**Midland.** Michigan's only Libertarian in public office, Chuck Congdon, continues to make waves in the Midland area. Last month Congdon, vice-chair of the local Cable Commission, was featured in a Midland Daily News article when the local cable company, Bresnan Communications, raised their rates. Calling the hike "a little Christmas present from Bresnan," Congdon called for the city to actively pursue competing cable companies. "Maybe it's time to get competing cable companies in town and see what it really costs to provide this service," Congdon was quoted as saying.

Congdon, who is also a member of the city's Deer Commission, was instrumental in obtaining a commitment from the Michigan Humane Society to relocate the roving deer from the city. Savings to taxpayers: \$20,000.

**Ann Arbor.** Former LP Michigan Supreme Court nominee David Raaflaub obtained a Default Order against the Michigan Secretary of State and Attorney General in Oakland County Circuit Court litigation over the placement of the Part-Time Legislature initiative on the Michigan ballot, the invalidating of the 90-day rule on recall petitions, and the forfeiture of Richard Austin's performance bond as Secretary of State. Attorneys for Austin are attempting to have the default set aside.

Earlier last year Raaflaub obtained a ruling that the 180-day limit on initiative petitions was unconstitutional as part of the same litigation before Judge Alice Gilbert.

# Liberal Appeal

From The Editor - Tim O'Brien

From Page 2

in Kierney's book Please Understand Me. They are NF's or, as libertarians have color-coded them, "Blues." In less esoteric terms, the kind of individuals who are attracted to professions in media, entertainment and academia tend to be the "touchy-feelies," the artists and poets, the "do-gooders." They are the kind of people who get a warm glow from helping those they perceive to be unable to fend for themselves: the lame, the halt and the blind, unemployed mothers with dependent children, even Snaildarters and the ozone in the atmosphere. They are, in a word, "liberals."

And, if we want to move this culture towards freedom, we better start thinking of ways to win them over. Fortunately, this is not so daunting a task as it might, at first, appear. Liberals have their hearts in the right place, it's merely their heads that need straightening out. Further, liberals are susceptible to appeals for change. Indeed, if there is one defining characteristic of the liberal it is that he believes the status quo is clearly deficient. Contrast this with conservatives. True, they have some intellectual comprehension of our positions, but that is more a consequence of their ancestor worship (the 'Founding

Fathers' were libertarians) than any real commitment to principle. Worse, conservatives are, by definition, dedicated to preserving the status quo. Indeed, they have an obsession with it that borders on hysteria.

So, if we are to reach the reachable, we must appeal to liberals. The obvious tactic for us, therefore, is to begin couching our arguments in terms that show concern for the plight of our less fortunate fellows: "Isn't it a shame that all those poor seniors were forced to move out of their Poletown homes for the benefit of General Motors?" and "I hear they're going to raise the minimum wage again -- and with minority unemployment already at nearly 50%!" These are the kinds of appeals that liberals find compelling.

Many in the libertarian movement have already recognized the value of this strategy-- witness the candidacy of Russell Means, a man of almost epic "Blue" appeal, and the significant support he had at the convention (over a third of the delegates). But, in the final analysis, it is up to us on the frontlines. We must begin demonstrating that our philosophy is founded on benevolence and socialism's on jealousy. We must begin taking every opportunity to point out the distinction so brilliantly demonstrated in the old observation: The socialist looks at the mansion and says "No man should have so much!" The libertarian looks at the same mansion and says "Every man should have as much!"

## Taxes On Trial

Macomb Libertarian Virginia Cropsey appeared in a mock trial on PBS Ch. 56 in Detroit on Jan 15 testifying as a witness against increasing excise taxes on alcohol to curb substance abuse. Taped at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, Cropsey was one of three witnesses for the defense and the sole witness for the citizen's viewpoint. The other five witnesses were experts on the relationship between excise taxes and substance abuse.

Experts as well as counsel for the pro- and anti-tax positions were flown in from around the country. The State Department of Substance Abuse fielded the pro-tax counsel and witnesses and underwrote the \$63,000. production. Stroh brewery, with the assistance of Ch. 56, obtained

the anti-tax counsel and witnesses.

Cropsey was chosen for her work in the Michigan recalls and past Ch. 56 appearances on pro-freedom issues. Jurors were selected from Ch. 56 subscribers. Former Chief Recorder's Court Judge Samuel Gardner presided over the hearing.

The jury took only a few minutes for deliberation -- four opposing the tax on the first vote with the other two initially undecided. One juror showed particular astuteness in pointing out to the rest that all three pro-tax witnesses were on various government payrolls studying the alcohol abuse problem and whose testimony, therefore, was blatantly self-serving.

The unanimous verdict against the tax increase plainly stunned the judge and all of the

other statistis in the courtroom  
*[Editor's Note: Not to mention the governor's brother-in-law who authorized the sixty grand.]*

Cropsey says the opposing counsel told her after the verdict that he had obtained a copy of David Bergland's Libertarianism in One Lesson to prepare for her cross-examination when he saw her Libertarian background listed in her pre-trial credits. "Whatever he got out of it, he must not have figured out how to get around the best market arguments," Cropsey said, hinting that we can expect a result for the home team. Her testimony, which was basically ad lib, focused on individual accountability and voluntary mechanisms as appropriate solutions to problems associated with alcohol abuse.

# Volunteer Day

by Paul Jacob

The National Libertarian Party is celebrating a new holiday on January 27, 1988: Volunteer Day! This event, like Tax Protest Day, is designed to gain media attention for a major Libertarian issue (opposition to conscription) and to give us a more positive image in the eyes of the public.

On Wednesday, January 27, Libertarians in cities and towns across the country will take a birthday cake to their local armed forces recruiting station in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the end of the draft and the beginning of the present All-Volunteer Force. (Fifteen years ago, then President Richard Nixon announced the end of draft inductions for the Vietnam War and no American has since been drafted.)

The Volunteer Day cake can have 15 candles and might have an anti-draft quote or a statement such as, "Happy Birthday to the Volunteer Army -- Free People Defending Free People." Libertarians will cut the cake and share it with the recruiters in front of TV cameras and radio and newspaper reporters. Then the cake can be set up outside (weather permitting) on a cardtable to be shared with those passing by who care to stop. Activists will also pass out Volunteer Day flyers and any other campaign literature they may have.

Everyone is encouraged to participate and local Volunteer Day coordinators are needed right now. If you want to take part please contact the National LP Office (1-800-682-1776) or National Volunteer Day Chair Toni Black (1-215-265-0350) for information and support.

The National Party will produce a Volunteer Day flyer for distribution at the event. The flyer -- complete with our position on the draft, information on Volunteer Day and the Libertarian Party, and our toll-free number prominently listed -- will be designed to encourage the public to call us for more information on the Party. The National Party will also provide

support in organizing Volunteer Day and in contacting the news media.

Volunteer Day offers us a tremendous opportunity to make news. The draft is an issue that has affected millions of Americans past and present and it remains an issue of great interest. This interest is even more pronounced with Republicans and powerful Democrats pushing for the draft or national service, Gilliam Kerley imprisoned in Leavenworth Federal Prison for not registering for the draft, and U.S. ships and soldiers in the midst of the Persian Gulf conflict.

Moreover, the Volunteer Day celebration is a great chance to present a positive image to the public as well as the media. Who could possibly find anything but good things to say about people baking a cake and sharing it with others in the community? Volunteer Day won't be a protest or picket or demonstration, but rather a celebration which the media and the general public can appreciate.

Furthermore, Volunteer Day gives us an opportunity to kick off Campaign '88 and the Paul/Marrou campaign. Ron Paul has agreed to take part in the Washington, D.C. event and to lay out his position on the draft and the volunteer army. Andre Marrou and other prominent Libertarians are expected to participate and Karl Hess has agreed to be a co-chair of the event. Local candidates can also make use of Volunteer Day to speak out on the draft issue and to begin their campaigns.

Volunteer Day will be a very beneficial event for the Libertarian Party by producing a good deal of always needed media attention, promoting a positive image to the voting public, speaking out on a basic Libertarian issue, and beginning the exciting election year -- 1988. We hope every Libertarian in every city and town across the country will participate. Be a part of Volunteer Day. Call the National Headquarters right now at 1-800-682-1776 and *Volunteer!!*

## Presidential Campaign Hotline

There is a new company, American Political Network, providing a service called, "Presidential Campaign Hotline." For \$350 per month, it provides its customers (mostly major newspapers and TV stations) with news from the campaigns of presidential candidates, analysis, and 200 words provided directly from each presidential candidate. The Ron Paul Libertarian

presidential campaign recently asked to be included. The first response was, "OK"; the next day the organization had a board meeting and adopted a policy of excluding all third party and independent candidates.

Since many major newspapers have subscribed to the service and no longer send their own reporters to cover their campaign, American Political Network's policy of excluding

third party and independent presidential candidates will accentuate a tendency of major news media to block out coverage of third party candidates.

Anyone who wishes to ask American Political Network to re-think its policy can write to it at 1489 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 300, McLean, VA 22101. For more information about the company, see *Newsweek* of November 2, 1987.

“I’m from the  
government...

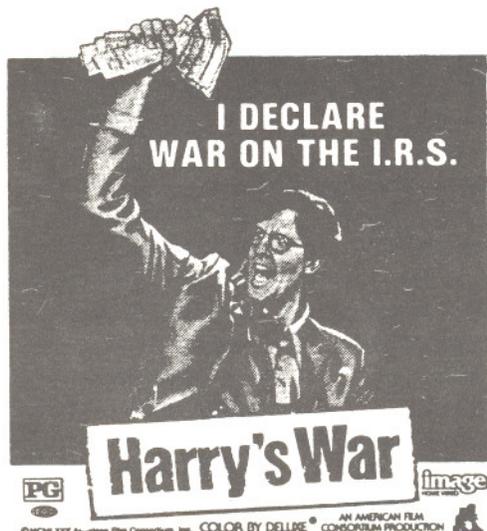


I’m here to help you.”

## Norma Jean Update

Just after we went to print with our last issue we were notified that Norma Jean Almadovar has changed addresses. You can now write her at:

Norma Jean Almadovar  
W27022  
CRC Dorm 112, Bed 55  
P.O. Box 1800  
Norco, CA 91760



A rare film challenging the Gestapo-like tactics of the I.R.S. Now available on VHS video cassette. Suggested retail \$59.95. Sale Price \$39.95 from:

Free Forum, 1800 Market, #3, San Francisco, CA 94102

## Communist Free Markets

Hanoi, Viet Nam. Vietnamese Communist Party chief Truong Chinh has announced policy reforms that recognize the need for capitalist enterprises and foreign investment to help the troubled Vietnamese economy.

He told the opening session of the party's Sixth Congress in Hanoi that "We recognize the long-term necessity of the small production economy, existence of the private capitalist economy and petty bourgeois in a number of branches and trades... wherever they are needed in the country."

## LP Certified For Ballot

*Continued from page 1*

including \$2,000 donated by the Ron Paul for President Committee.

The results of the 1988 elections will determine whether or not the LP will maintain ballot status for the 1990 election without having to repeat the petitioning process. By law, the top candidate for the party must receive at least 1% of the total votes cast in Michigan for the winning candidate for Secretary of State in 1986 -- or 16,313 votes.

# The Dream Never Dies

*A personal view of the 1987 LP Nominating Convention*

Read this first-hand, day-by-day account of the dramatic events in Seattle, by veteran LP journeyman, Brian Wright.

"...the next best thing to being there"

--Emily Salvette  
Secretary LPM

"...two enthusiastic thumbs-up (I'm using both hands)"

--Tim O'Brien  
Editor ML

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# Lewis Faces Tax Charges, Plans Novel Argument

by Virginia Cropsey

Jim Lewis, 1984 LP Vice-Presidential nominee, will answer three charges of willful failure to file income tax returns for 1981, '82, & '83 during a trial before Connecticut Federal District Court Judge Ellen Burns. Jury selection, scheduled to begin in early December, has been postponed to January 19. Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Lavine is prosecuting Mr. Lewis on behalf of the U.S. government. Lewis will represent himself.

Lewis indicated his defense will contain arguments about the nature of the income tax based on his research at libraries around the country during the time he represented a library binding company. The argument is outlined in Otto Skinner's book The Best Kept Secret.

Skinner identifies "two great classes of taxes" under the U.S. Constitution and the rules by which they were to be governed: "the rule of apportionment as to direct taxes, and the rule of uniformity as to duties, imports, and excises". See U.S. Constitution, Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, and Sec. 9, Clause 4.

Skinner argues that since these two rules have never been repealed, the 16th Amendment is merely a clarification and does not create any new power to tax. The 16th Amendment says Congress may tax incomes, from whatever source derived, without respect to apportionment.

Skinner identifies Supreme Court cases which hold that income taxes are indirect taxes (Stanton vs. Baltic Mining Co., 240 U.S. 112 (1916)) in the nature of an excise tax (Brushaber vs. Union Pacific R.R. Co., 240 U.S. 16 (1916)). Since income taxes are indirect taxes, they are taxes on activities: "a tax laid upon the happening of an event, as distinguished from its tangible fruits, is an indirect tax..." Tyler

vs. U.S., 281 U.S. 502 (1930). The income is the measure of the tax, and congress must pass specific legislation taxing the activity or event.

Why hasn't Congress passed a law taxing most income activities? Skinner argues that it would be unconstitutional to tax "the free exercise of the constitutionally guaranteed right to lawfully acquire property (income or other compensation) by lawfully contracting one's own labor..."

Skinner does not adequately document his theory that Congress cannot constitutionally pass a tax on activities from which Congress is currently collecting revenue. He bases the claim on natural law principles as a background to the Constitution similar to the "principled judicial activism" the Cato Institute propounded during the Bork hearings. Skinner's natural rights are not founded on the principle of non-initiation of force, however. Natural rights, to Skinner, are rights to do activities which are not "inherently evil or harmful to others." "It is not a natural right to do business in a corporate capacity."

What practical limit would ever be placed on government action under Skinner's formula is

not easy to see. Reading Skinner would be more likely to bring the thoughtful libertarian back to Lysander Spooner and the words of former federal judge Learned Hand: "I often wonder whether we do not rest our hope too much upon constitutions, upon laws and upon courts. These are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. While it lies there it needs no Constitution, no law, no court to save it."

Jim Lewis will be arguing that he is not "subject to the tax" because he is not a taxpayer since he has not been involved in any legally declared revenue taxable events or activities. It is not necessary to adopt Skinner's natural law theory for Lewis to win. Application of simple legal construction principles are all that would be necessary. Establishing this legal precedent would be a big win for individual liberty.

Virginia Cropsey will be assisting Jim Lewis in researching and preparing a pamphlet to explain the income tax to Americans. She has arranged for a friend who is a law student in New York to cover the Lewis trial for "LP News".

## Free Forum Bookstore Raided

San Francisco, CA. On October 23rd of last year the Free Forum Bookstore, owned and operated by long time LP activist Jim Peron, was raided by the San Francisco Police. Their alleged purpose was to arrest part-time employee David Simons on "morals charges." Instead, the police took -- among other things -- Jim's address book, Norma Jean pardon petitions, pledge cards for Groundswell, the bookstore's mailing list and the video tape of

Ron Paul's TV commercial.

Although no charges have been filed, Peron has been unable to recover any of his possessions. He plans to file suit against the police officers and the city of San Francisco and is currently attempting to raise the necessary funds. If you would like to help, the address is:

**Free Fourm Books**  
1800 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

# Trade = Peace

by Dwight Filley

(Reprinted from *Individual Liberty*; June 1987)

The peace activists mean well, and I wish them all the luck in the world but, despite their best efforts, tensions continue to build. One of the reasons is that they usually make no specific demands. Politicians love this because then they can completely agree in principle but, when it comes to specifics, they vote for more arms and more saber rattling.

And you can't blame the antiwar movement for making general demands, because specifics such as ICBMs, MIRVs, and SDI are immensely complicated. There is no way that a guy who just wants to avoid being vaporized on his way to work can argue "megatonnes" and "throwweights" with the experts.

What they **could** demand and **should** demand is more free trade. It would not only be specific and reduce tension, it would also help everyone's pocketbook.

Eugene Debs, the noted Socialist leader, said: "Sooner or later every war of trade becomes a war of blood."

And back in 1922, Lloyd George, then British Prime Minister, said: "I believe we can save [Russia] by trade. Commerce has a sobering influence.... Trade, in my opinion, will bring an end to the ferocity, the rapine, and the cruelty of Bolshevism surer than any other method."

There is often a strong correlation between trade restrictions and war.

- Japan attacked Pearl Harbor immediately following Roosevelt's freezing all Japanese assets in the U.S., effectively cutting off trade completely.

- The American Revolution was caused largely by the mercantile trade restrictions epitomized by the Boston Tea Party.

- And the War of 1812 was caused by British interference with our shipping.

When goods cannot cross borders, armies will.

Big corporations are often accused of encouraging wars because they are "good for business." Unfortunately there is some truth to this. Wars **are** good for some businesses, even though they devastate the general welfare. But if most corporations depend upon potential enemies for raw materials and finished goods, or if a major part of their market is in the antagonist's country, this will form a powerful lobby for **peace**, if only to help business.

In addition, free trade helps American

consumers. Take cars for example. Every import car buyer in America pays substantially more for an automobile because of import tariffs. Sure this helps Detroit, but it hurts millions of Americans who own or deal in foreign cars. Free trade would hurt special interests, but it would help **everyone else!**

Our government says it wants peace, yet a glance at the Tariff Schedule of the United States seems to say otherwise. This is the set of two huge three-ring binders filled with the fine print which spells out in endless detail the extra money you and I pay for thousands of categories of goods brought in from abroad. Trade with Russia is much more highly taxed than trade with friendly nations--often three or four times as high.

It is almost as if governments try to start wars by raising trade barriers.

Numerous historical documents, including the memoirs of Harold L. Ickes, indicate that Roosevelt concocted a war with Japan using trade restrictions in order to get America into the European War.

How many people think Reagan's embargo against Nicaragua will reduce tensions between the two countries?

You don't? Neither do I.

The U.S. is increasingly accused of becoming isolationist as it alienates one after another of its allies. Fewer trade barriers would reintegrate us into the world community at least as effectively as our confused diplomatic efforts.

Now of course we cannot directly affect the trade barriers that Russia erects against U.S. goods, but we certainly can begin to remove ours. It is no guarantee, but wouldn't the Kremlin be less likely to consider bombing American cities if those cities were full of their customers?

If they were making rubles hand over fist trying to satisfy the vast American demand for timber, oil, vodka, caviar, and who knows what else, wouldn't they find it more and more difficult to hate the bourgeoisie?

But what if the Russian barriers stay up and they don't buy from us?

We get all their goods for free, that's what.

We send them green pieces of paper with pictures of Presidents on them, and they send us things we want. Not a bad trade.

But you can be sure they will buy from us, because that is what trade is.

*Continued on page 11*

# Libertarian Musical Notes #2

by Gary Bradley

## Tom Paxton

### "Good Songs from Questionable Politics"

*"We're having another election this year.  
We're renting the halls and we're pouring the beer.  
We'll tell you precisely what you want to hear.  
And we all sound the same."*

...Tom Paxton, "We All Sound the Same"

Tom Paxton is one of those political anomalies that were prevalent during the '60's, an anti-government liberal. Unlike some of his compatriots, he doesn't seem to have discovered that his position is a contradiction in terms. Fortunately, his anti-government sentiments usually dominate the liberal claptrap, making him an ally in the fight against the State. The best part of Paxton's put down of government is that he usually accomplishes it with an element sadly missing from most Libertarian campaigns, humor.

Any Libertarian candidate that wants to shed the image of philosophical pedagogue should consider adding a rendition of "We All Sound the Same" to the warm up before the speech. If that song alone weren't worth the price of The Paxton Report, you also get Tom's only known compliment to free market capitalism, "I'm Changing My Name to Chrysler." Another thought stimulating ditty worth including might be "Sold a Hammer to the Pentagon" from the 1985 album One Million Lawyers and other Disasters. The repertoire of anti-war material is also extensive, but the best comes from the '60's and tends to be a little dated.

Aside from being a

political song writer, Paxton addresses the usual spectrum of folk music concerns including love (lost & found), social alienation, the undesirability of war, and the side effects of excessive partying. Possibly the best overview of his work is The Compleat Tom Paxton, a compilation of much of his work from the '60's. The album is a must for anyone who enjoys the folk scene of the period, though even those who don't care for the music will enjoy Paxton's "Bayonet Rap" about the penultimate experience of his short military career, followed by a segue into the hilarious "Viet Nam Pot Luck Blues". The only glaring omission on the album is the absence of "Who's Garden Was This", Paxton's only song that achieved much notoriety without first being recorded by someone else.

Why should we embrace the music of the last great anti-government crusade, considering that crusade was less than successful (Given two decades of Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan, it must have been a dismal failure as a revolution.)? The major reason is that the music was one part of that movement which drew people together and made them feel good. If the new freedom movement is to appeal to

what Dick Boddie calls touchy-feely folks, they have to feel something other than bored. A movement requires more than intellectual stimulation or it won't even grow large enough to be a notable failure. It takes people to make change and, like it or not, most people would rather listen to music than a rousing lecture on a return to the gold standard.

Tom Paxton was one of the song writers that was listened to during the last period of acute disenchantment with government. Perhaps it is time to revive interest in at least some parts of his message. The feeling of discontent across the country is pervasive but unfocused. Perhaps we should consider stimulating the people not just with ideas but with emotions. Why not consider using the works of someone who wrote so eloquently about a similar period?

*"I've been wandering through  
this land,  
Doing the best I can,  
Trying to find what I was  
meant to do.  
And the people that I see  
Look as worried as can be,  
And it looks like they are  
wondering too."*

*"And I Can't Help But Wonder  
Where I'm Bound"*



## Trade = Peace

*Continued on page 9*

Just as erecting a trade barrier often triggers a retaliatory barrier from the other country, a reduction often brings a reciprocal reduction. Again, no guarantees, but isn't it worth a try? Especially when we gain economically too.

So, we sell more Levi's and rock videos to them; they sell more borscht to us, and tensions go down.

Free trade is antiwar, and it is specific. Perhaps peace activists could march in protest of trade barriers and burn copies of the Tariff Schedule, rather than demand more endless, and usually fruitless, disarmament talks.

Instead of bogging down in arguments over Star Wars, let's demand tariff reductions. The only opposition will come from the special interests in Washington who

benefit from trade restrictions, and they are the bad guys anyway.

Drop trade barriers, not bombs.

"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain."

--Oz the Omnipotent

## Ron Paul Off And Running

*Continued from page 1*

Ron Paul Headquarters and by Alicia G. Clark, Liaison of State Coordinators. We all can do something very immediate and we must convince others to do it as well. It only takes a few minutes and very little money. Call or write to Ms. Vicki Harian, Presidential Debate Chairman, League of Women Voters, 1730 M. St.

N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 429-1965. Tell her you want to hear Ron Paul during their presidential candidate's debates. This is a critical move that we can make right now.

Many new people are showing support in our cause for Liberty. A couple from Michigan wrote: "We are both conservative libertarians,... my husband is an elected precinct delegate for the Republican Party; however, we have become dissatisfied with the Republican Party and its lack of vision and ideology." Their letter included a check for \$100 for the Ron Paul campaign.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the campaign should write to:

**Evy Warmbier**  
940 South Highland  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
(313) 562-6212

YES, I want to join the Libertarian Party as a :

- \$20 Combined State and National Member  
 \$10 Michigan Member Only  
 \$10 Newsletter Subscriber Only

Please send me more information on the Libertarian Party

Note: All memberships include the state newsletter, **Michigan Libertarian**. National membership includes a subscription to **Libertarian Party News**.

"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: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Libertarian Party of Michigan  
322 Millington Blvd.  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013

Dearborn, MI 48124  
22335 Francis  
William Shotey  
\*\*\*M 88/03



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN  
322 Millington Blvd.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013  
(313) 334-4449



# Jefferson Speaks



I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom. And to preserve their independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between **Economy and Liberty**, or **Profusion and Servitude**. If we run into such debts, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our callings and our creeds, as the people of England are, our people, like them, must come to labor sixteen hours in twenty-four,

give the earnings of fifteen of these to the government for their debts and daily expenses; and the sixteenth being insufficient to afford us bread, we must live, as they now do, on oatmeal and potatoes; have no time to think, no means of calling the mismanagers to account; but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers. Our land-holders, too, like theirs, retaining indeed the title and stewardship of estates called theirs but held really in trust for the treasury, must wander, like theirs, in foreign countries, and be

contended with penury, obscurity, exile, and the glory of the nation. This example reads to us the salutary lesson, that private fortunes are destroyed by public as well as by private extravagance. And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for a second; that second for a third; and so on, till the bulk of society is reduced to mere automatons of misery, to have no sensibilities left but for sinning and suffering. Then begins, indeed, the **Bellum Omnium In Omnia**, which some philosophers observing to be so general in this world, have mistaken it for the natural, instead of the abusive state of man. And the fore horse of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression.

-- Thomas Jefferson to S. Kercheval, 1816.