

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

May/June 1988

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan

Volume 15, Number 3

Michigan Elects First Libertarian!

Addison. This small, southwestern community made Michigan history by electing the State's first Libertarian to public office in a partisan race. James W. Clifton, Pastor of the village's United Church of Christ and a long time Libertarian, was elected to the Addison Village Council on March 14--- out polling all four of the other candidates representing the two older parties. Three trustees were chosen from among the five candidates to fill two year terms. The Libertarian was elected along with two Republicans.



"The platform I ran on locally was a platform that supported property rights and opposed zoning ordinances," Clifton told UPI in speculating on the reasons for his victory. "Our [Addison's] book of ordinances is as thick as the Chicago phone book. I think that is ridiculous for a town this size!" Clifton also thought his earlier appointment to the position to fill a vacancy helped give him credibility. "I think it helped me because it gave them six months to see that I wasn't radical -- that I wasn't fringe or anything."

Paul to attend LPM Convention, But...

Ron Paul, Libertarian Party candidate for President of the United States, will be attending the Libertarian Party of Michigan nominating convention in May at the Airport Hilton in Romulus. However, the candidate will not be able to attend the Saturday night banquet as originally planned. Instead, Dr. Paul will arrive in Michigan on Thursday, May 19th, spend all day Friday at various press conferences, and will be the guest of honor at a special cocktail reception Friday evening where he will address and meet with supporters. When contacted by ML regarding the change in scheduling, a spokesperson for the Paul campaign would say only that the presidential candidate would be leaving Michigan Saturday afternoon to go to California. Don Ernsberger, SIL founder, who was originally scheduled to speak at the Saturday luncheon will, instead, speak at the Saturday evening banquet. State Representative Margaret O'Connor, R- Dist. 52, has been added to the schedule as the Saturday luncheon speaker. Although a Republican, Ms. O'Connor has decided libertarian learnings -- the subject of her speech will be "Michigan Pork." For complete details on other changes and additions to the convention schedule see the article Convention Update on page 7.

Might 1, Right 0 The Conviction of Jim Lewis

By Jim Davies, Libertarian Party of Connecticut

After 8 years of preparation and a stellar performance in nearly 3 days of trial conducting his own defense, LPCer Jim Lewis failed in his attempt to challenge the might of the IRS. "Guilty", said the jury, after only 2 hours of deliberation on February 24th.

The virtually unlimited resources of the IRS - all stolen, from productive people - had triumphed again.

Sustained by his astonishing coolness under fire, which had served him well during the trial, Jim alone could speak as he led his stunned friends and supporters from the courtroom in New Haven. "Not so glum, guys", he told us. That could not have been easy for him to say, but it was impossible for any of us to do.

Sentencing will be on April 6th, and each of 3 counts of willful failure to file tax returns could put this 1984 candidate for US Vice-President away for up to 3 years.

Going in to the trial, it was already clear that the deck was heavily stacked against Jim, and he knew that and was willing to try anyway. In particular, an IRS pre-trial motion to exclude all evidence to the effect that the Income Tax was unconstitutional, had been granted!

Judge Ellen Burns thus made it clear that the only defense Jim would be allowed to present was that he had had a good-faith misunderstanding of the Law; that the "willful" element in the charge was missing.

Therefore, the only matter the jury was instructed to consider, apart from the arithmetic of whether Jim had an income exceeding \$3300, was whether or not he was sincere in his belief that he was not a person required to file.

What shattered us most was that knowing that, and having watched his obvious sincerity for three days, that a panel of 12 ordinary Connecticut people (very ordinary) should after so brief a retirement return and say that they did not believe Jim was

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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.

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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

Libertarian vs. Libertarian

Although I have been consistently voting Libertarian since the Clark campaign in 1980, I did not become actively involved with the party until 1983. My first exposure was witnessing the schism created by the Bergland nomination and the 70% drop in vote totals that resulted, at least in part, from that in-fighting.

The damage was still apparent in Seattle last fall, since the CATO Institute was conspicuous by its absence. The disaffection of the so-called "Crane Machine" even led to the bizarre spectacle of an endorsement by some former LPers of Pete "mandatory drug screening for all high school students" duPont. Meanwhile, another group announced plans to abandon the third party strategy, urging us to quit the LP and join with them in forming a libertarian caucus within one of the statist parties.

Closer to home, I have sadly been witness to several walkouts by talented and dedicated Libertarians over what amounts to little more than tactical disagreements. Some have found the leadership of the LPM wanting. Their solution? Quit the LCC vowing to "do other things till they get their act together."

Now, a candidate seeking our nomination for one of the offices available to us in the November election disagrees with the tactics of a competitor for that nomination and so accuses him in a letter to the LPM membership of being "not a serious candidate dedicated to advancing the cause of liberty." Mind you, he was referring to someone who had done a good deal of work for both the movement in general and the Party in particular over the last several years. It was even suggested recently by another LPer that the support of one of these candidates by an LPM Executive Committee member (each has one working actively on his campaign) represents a conflict of interest and that said committee member can not be relied upon to discharge his/her official duties and not take advantage of his/her position to screw the opposing candidate.

Enough of this! If adherents to the libertarian philosophy may be characterized by anything beyond a common belief in the non-aggression axiom, it ought to be our recognition of the right to diversity of opinion on everything else. The party should be, in the final analysis, the banner to which all of us may repair. If you share the political philosophy: "I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals," then you belong in the Libertarian Party. And we will never become a real force on the American political scene unless you stay there. The way it is going now, growth and desertion are nearly balancing out!

There were many people at the Seattle convention who believed that it was time to reassess our perennial political strategy (i.e., radical ideas will be more palatable to the

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Michigan Libertarian Reformers

by Virginia Cropsey

Grand Rapids. Another Libertarian in elected office! Dan Nicewonder, a Jenison attorney, joined the Michigan LP at the February Kent County meeting according to Kent County Chair, Bill Hall. Nicewonder is an elected member of the Jenison school board. He won the seat in a nonpartisan election. Welcome Dan!

Kalamazoo. And yet another Libertarian in public office! Following her threat to recall city council members who voted for a city income tax proposal, Kalamazoo Libertarian Sheryl Loux was appointed to the Committee to Study Fire Privatization. Loux has been appointed to city committees in the past.

Ann Arbor. "Run slates" and "recruit students" are the conclusions of the Libertarians who ran in the Ann Arbor City Council elections April 4th. The full slate gave the Libertarians greater credibility which generated a great deal of media coverage, according to David Raaflaub. A page one *Ann Arbor News* article on Saturday before the election pictured the Libertarians and quoted each for a libertarian local government position on topics such as solid waste disposal, law enforcement, historic preservation, and airport privatization. They appeared in televised League of Women Voters debates and spoke in radio forums with their opponents. Bill Krebaum received 15% in a two-way race against the Democratic incumbent. The Republican had received only 30% in the previous election, so Krebaum was satisfied with his effort. The big news was that he outpolled the prior Republican percentage in one precinct and tied his percentage in another. Both were student precincts in which Krebaum did not distribute literature. He concludes that students will vote for a Libertarian as readily as for a Republican. The Libertarians believe they contributed to the two-to-one defeat of a rent control proposal and influenced the partisan race to the extent that a new Republican majority was created in city council. "Economic issues predominate in local elections and we made the Republicans look like moderate centrists," said Krebaum. One function of Libertarian campaigns is to move the center of debate in the pro-freedom direction. None of the Libertarians in three-way races held the balance of power as they hoped to do. Krebaum also addressed a crowd of 1000, including a large number of reporters, at the Ann Arbor hash bash, and informed them that the Libertarian Party, and its candidates, want to decriminalize marijuana use, possession, manufacture, and sale.

Midland. Local Cable Commission Vice-Chair Charles Congdon is being considered for a vacancy on the Midland County Board of Commissioners. He is too busy reforming to give us a detailed update, but sent this short piece on "The Reformer" and his ilk. Sound like anyone we know?

The Reformer

by Richard S. Childs

A reformer is one who sets forth cheerfully toward defeat. It is his peculiar function to embrace the hopeless cause when it can win no other friends and when its obvious futility repels that thick-necked, practical, timorous type of citizen to whom the outward appearance of success is so dear. His persistence against stone walls invites derision from those who have never been touched by his religion and do not know what fun it is. He never seems victorious, for if he were visibly winning, he could forthwith cease to be dubbed "reformer."

Yet, in time, the Reformer's little movement becomes respectable and his little minority proves that it can grow and presently the Statesman joins it and takes all the credit, cheerfully handed to him by the Reformer as bribe for his support.

And then comes the Politician, rushing grandly to the succor of the victor!

And all the Crowd!

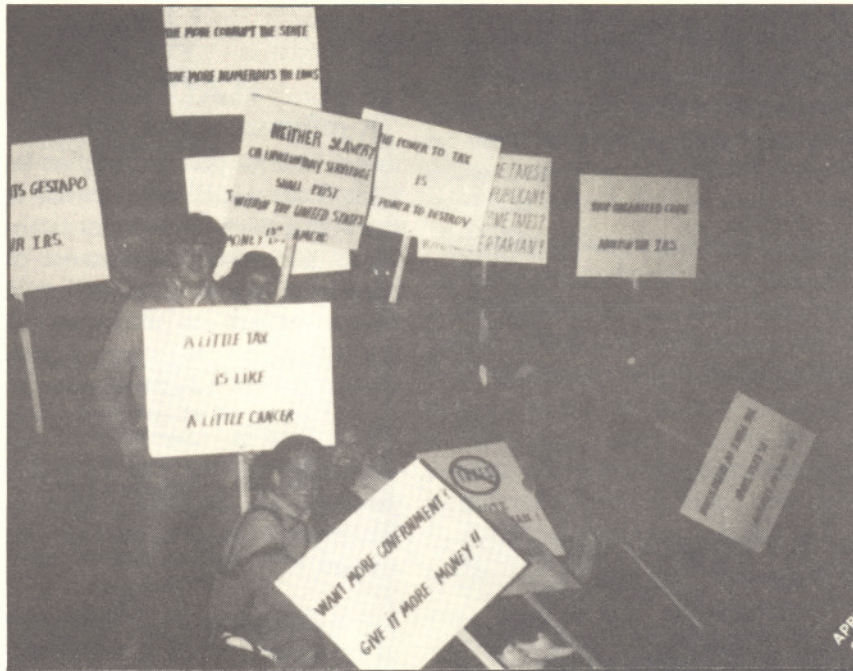
The original Reformer is lost in the shuffle then, but he doesn't care. For as the great bandwagon which he started goes thundering past with trumpets, the Crowd in the intoxication of triumph leans over the side to jeer at him--a forlorn and lonely crank mustering a pitiful little odd-lot of followers along the roadside and setting them marching, while over their heads he lifts the curious banner of his next crusade!

Macomb County LP Convention

The Macomb County Libertarian Party will hold its county convention for the purpose of nominating all Michigan LP candidates for offices districted solely within Macomb County on Tuesday, May 17. The Macomb convention will remain open until the close of the state convention for further nominations. If you would like to run but cannot attend the Macomb convention, or if you would like information about the Macomb County LP convention, call Virginia Cropsey, Macomb County LP chair at 977-6628. The Macomb County Libertarian Party is an official affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Michigan pursuant to resolution of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Michigan and registered with the Michigan Secretary of State. Ron Burcham is treasurer.

Tax Protest

The annual April 15, tax protest was a rousing success according to state-wide coordinator Jim MacAbee. Protesters appeared at U.S. Post Office locations throughout the state with about 25 boisterous sign-waving LPers at the main branch in downtown Detroit. The Detroit event also attracted some non-LP protesters who bear special antipathy for the income tax and who came from a nearby Justice Pro Se meeting (at which appeared IRS whistleblower, Paul DeFosses).



As expected, the Detroit network affiliates showed up to do their annual, cutesy "those silly last-minute filers" live TV coverage. As usual, LPers were there to take advantage of it. Jeff Hampton, made a particularly strong statement on NBC affiliate, Channel 4.

Following is a brief statement that accompanied our advance press release. It was penned by Brian Wright.

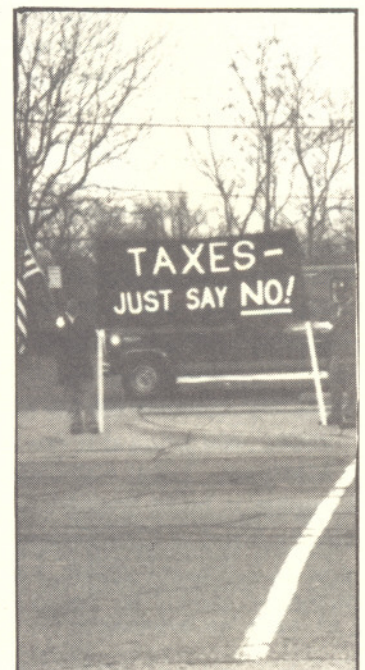
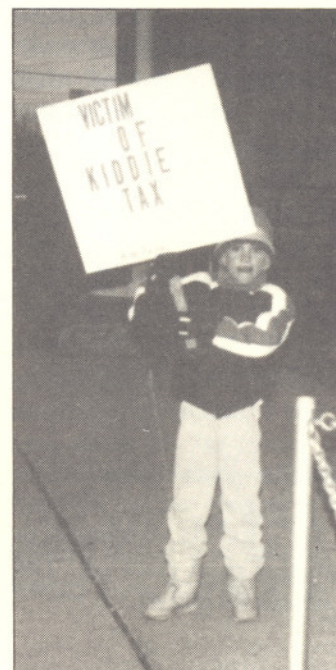
As all Michigan residents know, April 15th is the official deadline for paying our state and federal governments for the marvelous job they have done all year and the invaluable services they continue to insist upon providing to all the happy people. These services include, but are not limited to, wholesale destruction of neighborhoods through public works projects, enfeeblement of young minds in state schools, meddling in our personal and family lives, crippling of business and trade through arbitrary edicts, creation of a growing class of dependents on ruling-class largesse, death in the streets through a war of hysteria on unapproved substances, prisons burgeoning with victimless criminals (while killers, robbers, and rapists walk the streets in peace), continued brutal oppression of millions of non-Americans by U.S. support of foreign governments, and general confiscation of material wealth.

Actually, the latter is not a service; rather it is what makes all the other services possible. Government confiscation of material wealth is otherwise known as taxation. Libertarians oppose taxation because they believe government should not rob its citizens. We believe that in the long run the institution of taxation will go the way of slavery, and for the same reasons -- it is an immoral infringement on a human being's right to live

peacefully and honestly as he or she chooses. Like burning witches at the stake or the Divine Right of Kings, the practice of coercive government financing will die out as the human race becomes more enlightened.

Part of that enlightenment, no doubt, will come as people begin to realize that they do not need to be compelled to do what they want and obtain what they need, and that these wants and needs are almost invariably peaceful and honest. Actual violent

criminals have been a negligible percentage of any culture, and people will voluntarily pay to remove them as a threat and to obtain the other minimal services a government is supposed to provide: defense and adjudication of civil matters. Coercive government, on the other hand, has been the largest destroyer of humanity throughout the ages, and it is now time to call it to account. we must shut off the spigot, empty the trough. We must end compulsory taxation.



NatCom Reports

by Bill Hall

[Editor's note: Following are two NatCom reports by Bill Hall. One arrived just after the last issue went to press, the other just before this issue was completed, so both have been included in this issue of ML.]

As you have probably heard, the emphasis at the December meeting of the Libertarian National Committee in Orlando, Florida, was on ballot access. The NATCOM abandoned its recent policy of funding access solely through fundraising appeals directly from the self-funded ballot access committee by adding a \$31,200 item in the 1988 LP budget for ballot access. Steve Fielder's Ballot Access Committee report delivered at the meeting indicates that this still leaves approximately \$115,000 of ballot access costs to be borne by the Ron Paul campaign, assuming LP and BAC fundraising budgets are met. Effective control of the BAC was shifted to the Paul campaign by approval of Bert Blumert as chair of the BAC. The latest word is that the Paul campaign is still pursuing a 50 state strategy and has hired a petitioning firm to do the difficult Florida ballot drive. While the Paul campaign verbally committed to the difficult North Carolina drive, I have not heard that has begun.

The NATCOM refused to reverse its decision to move the national office to Washington. The office is now up and running at its new location, income appears to be exceeding expectations and significant volunteer help is being donated.

The 1989 National Convention was scheduled for late summer in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The NATCOM will choose the 1991 presidential nominating convention site at its April meeting. Chicago appears to be the frontrunner.

Paul Jacob was confirmed as the National Director of the LP. Prior to the meeting I was appointed by Jim Turney to serve as chair of the Legal Action Committee.

The next NATCOM meeting is April 16 and 17 in Indianapolis. Feel free to contact me at 900 Old Kent Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, (616) 459-6121 if you have any comments or concerns.

. . .

The Libertarian National Committee met on April 16 and 17 in Indianapolis, Indiana, in connection with the convention of the Indiana Libertarian Party and a candidate workshop organized (and videotaped) by the LP's Affiliate Party Committee ("Campaign '88"). A number of important issues were addressed at the meeting.

Dr. Matt Monroe, Membership Committee Chair, reported that paid membership increased sharply, to about 6,100, and "instant" (nonpaying) members now stand at about 700. A

program has been inaugurated by the National Office to solicit membership renewals from lapsed members and to persuade instant members to become contributing members. The success rate on both of these solicitations is in excess of 50%

Paul Jacob, the National Director, reported that the National Office has succeeded in catching up in an enormous backlog of work and is getting to the point where all inquiries and obligations can be met on a timely basis with existing staff. The NatCom voted to make more funds available for the printing of LP outreach materials.

Chicago, Illinois, was selected as the site of the 1991 LP Presidential Nominating Convention over a bid from San Francisco, California.

Paul Kunberger, Finance Committee Chair, reported that telephone fundraising costs as a percentage of funds raised has dropped sharply, and the success rate on telephone calls made has increased significantly. Currently, income is coming in slightly ahead of budget, while expenses appear to be exceeding budget.

Bert Blumert, Chair of the Ron Paul Campaign and the Ballot Access Committee, reported that absent a change in the filing deadline and a significant influx of funds for petitioning, the BAC has written off the possibility of achieving ballot status in North Carolina. He still expects ballot status in 49 states to be achievable, but North Carolina would have required the collection of about 60,00 signatures in a very short time period. We now have ballot status in 24 states, expect 15 states to achieve ballot status on their own and the balance of the states will probably require subsidies to make it on the ballot. The BAC has raised approximately \$88,000 since the first of the year and spent about \$40,000, and has a current balance of about \$60,000.

The NatCom voted to lend Paul Jacob to the BAC and the Ron Paul Committee, effective immediately through the election, with his salary to continue to be paid by the LP.

The NatCom formed an Executive Committee to oversee the running of the National Office, including the hiring of an office manager for the period of Paul Jacob's absence. The Executive Committee consists of the four officers of the LP, plus Gerry Walsh, who is the Chair of the Management Committee. David Walter, the LP Vice Chair, was selected as Chair of the Executive Committee.

The NatCom also voted to eliminate the LP Activist Network News, in light of cost overruns.

Fun Stuff for Candidates and Their Friends

by Brian Wright

Just kidding. It's crucifixion. But all seriousness aside, it is particularly important that those of you who intend to become nominees at our state convention in Romulus be made aware of some mechanics -- and I don't mean Mr. Goodwrench.

No, what I mean is knowing the procedures by which your nomination will be accomplished. It is vital that either you or those who support you for nomination understand the various nominating methods, their timing, related forms, and deadlines for having these forms completed and delivered. The essentials are as follows:

Statewide offices

There are 11 positions, excluding president and vice-president: 2 State Supreme Court judges, 2 Board of Education members, 2 members each for UofM, MSU, and WSU boards of overseers, and one United States senator.

All nominations for these positions will occur Saturday afternoon, May 21, by action of the entire voting membership on the convention floor. If you want to say your piece, be there or be square (or send a proxy with your questionnaire).

Congressional offices

Michigan has 18 congressional districts. Our candidates for US Congress will be selected from caucuses of LPM voting members for each of these congressional districts (or as many districts as are represented). These congressional district caucuses will be convened after the statewide nominations have been made. The convention schedule shows 5:00 p.m., but it could happen somewhat earlier or later depending on how smoothly other business goes.

The congressional district caucuses will form in distinct groups around the convention floor as designated by the state chairman or presiding officer. Anyone who seeks nomination for US Congress should arrange to have his/her case presented to caucus members at the given place and time.

Michigan House of Representatives

Two methods exist for nomination of Michigan representatives in the state's 110 districts. For state rep districts which cross one or more county boundaries, candidates must be nominated in state rep district caucuses. For state rep districts which do not cross any county boundary, a candidate will be nominated by caucus of the county in which his/her district lies. Both types of caucus will initially convene in the convention floor area.

State Representative District Caucuses

The districts affected are as follows: 18, 19, 21, 23, 41, 42, 45, 48, 54, 78, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 98, 99, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 (criss-crossing state, starting in southwest corner).

As a practical matter, most of these districts are not highly

represented in a normally-attended LPM convention. For this reason, caucus business is not extensive and state representative district caucuses will be accommodated within the 5:00-6:00 p.m. time frame after the congressional district caucuses. The chair or presiding officer of the convention will specify details within the context of the existing schedule.

County Caucuses

These groupings will convene initially from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday. For those counties which include any of the remaining 83 state rep districts for which candidates exist, a principal function of the county caucus will be to nominate state representatives for those districts.

The other function of county caucuses, of course, is to pick candidates for county offices. For this purpose, the county caucus may extend one day past the convention -- through Monday, May 23 -- to make its nominations. Nominations for county office are not the responsibility of the state party, per se, but LPM candidates committee personnel will provide all information that county caucus officials or candidates require for nomination.

General Notes on Caucuses

A caucus of the LPM, as described above, is a self-governing, transitory body with its own officers and agenda which operates under general constraints of party bylaws and state law. It is the state party's responsibility to see that its caucuses be publicized and open to those entitled to participate in them and that they be held at reasonably convenient times.

The convention schedule for "Orders of the Day" thus establishes basic time constraints for the caucuses. Essentially, a caucus shall not formally convene earlier than the time slot indicated in the convention schedule, nor shall it be formally adjourned any earlier than the end of that period. Any changes to "Orders of the Day" must be made from the convention floor and require a 2/3 vote.

An extension period has been scheduled on Sunday, May 22, 11:30 a.m. to noon primarily for the convenience of those caucuses that wish to continue business on that day. If a specific caucus does not occur on Saturday, then its initial meeting will convene no earlier than 11:30, Sunday and will adjourn no earlier than noon. District caucuses must adjourn no later than close of convention or 3:00 p.m., Sunday, whichever is later.

A rule will be proposed during the bylaws session on Saturday to the effect that county caucuses be confined to nomination of county officials after close of convention business and, further, that all candidates for Michigan House of Representatives, including those nominated in county caucus, be considered as having been formally nominated by the convention as a whole.

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Michigan May Privatize Prisons

by Virginia Cropsey

Wayne County Executive Ed McNamera has given his support for privately built and operated jails because they could be constructed more cheaply and quickly than a county run facility. "Is that what you Libertarians are for?", he asked in surprise when Michigan Libertarian called for his comments on a proposal by Senator Robert Geake, R-Northville, to legalize prison privatization. When the response was in the affirmative, he said he'd be glad to receive more information about America's third largest political party.

McNamera has argued for privatization, responding to objections put forth by Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano. Privatization is not a usurpation of a government function because private corrections companies only perform the custodial function while judges and prosecutors decide who goes to jail and how long they stay there. Labor strikes? They're not unknown to other areas of the public sector. Back-up plans can be made to deal with the possibility. Rules for the use of reasonable force would be the same for private as for public guards according to McNamera. "Some people, like the county sheriffs in the tri-county area, are just protecting their turf in opposing privatization," McNamera told Michigan Libertarian.

Firm to Build, Run Texas Prison Centers

United Press International

Austin, April 20 -- Texas Gov. Bill Clements, saying the state is "stepping toward a solution" to prison crowding, signed contracts today with a Florida company for the state's first privately built and operated prison facilities.

The Texas Board of Corrections said it also is close to an agreement with Corrections Corporation of America of Nashville for the construction of two additional 500-bed prerelease centers in Venus and Cleveland.

The agreement with BeconWackenhut Inc. of Coral Gables, Fla., calls for the construction of two, 500-bed minimum-security prerelease centers at Kyle and Bridgeport. The company will operate the facilities for \$34.79 per inmate per day -- more than 10 percent less than what it would cost the state to do the job -- with slight escalations during the next few years.

The combined cost of both units will be about \$21.5 million. They are expected to open by early next year. County jails have about 5,500 state prisoners who cannot be transferred to the Texas Department of Corrections, which is under court order to relieve overcrowding in state prisons.

Convention Update

by Emily Salvette

The Issues Seminar on Sunday afternoon (1:30-3:00) has 3 confirmed speakers:

- 1) Charles Kile, Statewide coordinator for the Michigan

NORML group (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). He is founder and President of the United Marijuana Smokers of Michigan (UMSOM). He will discuss the Legalization of marijuana.

- 2) Elaine Andreski is Home School Chairman for the Michigan Alliance of Families. Her family pioneered the home school movement in Michigan in 1976. Her two younger children were home schooled for 7 years. She will discuss the separation of education and state.

- 3) Don Kostyu, founder and Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of Justice Pro Se, will discuss the Federal Reserve system and a return to the gold standard. He also edits the publication, *The Constitutionalist*, and hosts a call in talk show on WCAR radio in Detroit called *Town Meeting* weekdays 10-11 am.

Added to the schedule:

- 1) An appearance by state Representative Margaret O'Connor (R-52nd dist.). She is fed up with the "pork" being distributed by Lansing legislators and gives a weekly "Pork Barrel Award" for wasteful State spending.

- 2) A candidates Open House will be held Saturday morning from 9:30-11:30 in the seminar room next to the main meeting room. All Libertarian candidates running for public or party office may make their pitch, bring their literature, and talk to the voting delegates before elections begin Saturday afternoon.

Convention Notes:

- The hotel pool will be open Friday night to everyone, including non-registered hotel guests. Bring your suit for a midnight swim.

- Check-out time on Sunday is 1 p.m. There will be luggage storage areas available.

- Bylaws session will be chaired by James Hudler. Please send all proposed Bylaws revisions to the LPM office by May 18. (322 Millington, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013)

- Platform session will be chaired by Gary Bradley. The deadline for submitting proposed platform revisions was May 1.

- The Credentials Chairman of the convention will be Jeff Grund.

- More Volunteers needed! Call 313/334-4449.

LCC Highlights

by Emily Salvette

The LCC met on April 2 in Ann Arbor. The following are highlights of that meeting:

- 1) Bill Hall requested authorization to use the LPM membership list to solicit funds for the national ballot access effort.

- 2) A membership drive is in progress. Renewal letters were sent in February. In March, the newsletter was sent to an expanded list of over 800 names. A membership solicitation letter along with a new piece of literature produced by the LPM will be sent to 800 people by the end of April.

- 3) The LCC passed the following motion: "A person who has never been a member of the Libertarian Party of Michigan must become a member 30 days prior to a state convention before

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Might 1, Right 0 - Continued from page 1

Day One

On the first day, when the IRS presented its case, US Attorney Levine's examination of his own witnesses was done with great skill and charm. Simple questions, simple answers, perfectly planned, done in a light manner that must have endeared him to the jury; even a little humor here and there.

In contrast, Jim's attempt to cross examine may have seemed awkward and aggressive, and indeed was formidably difficult on account of the very low intelligence of most of these IRS witnesses, and of their lack of coherence.

Not all went Levine's way, though, even on this first day. Jim wisely let each witness ramble on, and most of them placed their feet in their mouths as they did so.

One even said out loud that "if people don't want to pay their taxes, they shouldn't live here." - a remark later ordered stricken from the record as a "personal opinion" to be disregarded. Fat chance.

And Jim asked each of them whether, in all their education before joining the IRS, they had conducted an independent study of the country's tax laws. Every one admitted they had not. One even said that as a young man he started filing 1040s just because his parents advised it.

Except in three cases Jim was prevented from asking also whether they had received any instruction in school about the US Constitution. Those three, including a Harvard Business School graduate, said they had not.

The sum of the IRS' evidence to date was that in the years in question, Jim's compensation had exceeded \$3300, and that a section of the IRS Code required all with such incomes to file tax returns. Their alleged "expert witness" testified that that Section did apply to all individuals living in America.

It had also established a point not disputed; that Jim had not so filed.

Day Two

While this author put Levine ahead on points after the first round, Day Two was a different matter.

Jim put himself on the stand and started to ask himself questions - a performance that, had the stakes not been so high, would have been hilarious.

Jim traced how, since 1979, he had become increasingly concerned about the large role played in society by government, and how that had led him to research both the Constitution generally and then the history of the income tax in particular.

He showed how his position as a travelling salesman for a bookbinding firm had taken him in to law and other libraries all over the country, and how he had used those facilities and purchased over 1500 books for his personal library on the subject - many, 19th century ones long out of print.

He testified that the books and papers he read had led him to believe that the Income Tax as now administered does not apply to citizens of the 50 States.

The reasoning may well have been above the jurors' heads, though that should not have mattered, since they were only

allowed to judge his sincerity anyway. The essence of the argument, presented over several hours, was as follows:

Successive attempts to introduce a tax on Incomes (1820, 1861, ...) had fallen afoul of the "Apportionment" clause of the Constitution. This says that any direct tax -- on persons, not things -- must be apportioned among the States according to their populations.

Each time Congress had considered an income tax, there had been no doubt; income taxes are direct taxes.

On the face of it, the 16th Amendment solved that problem. However, the word "direct" does not appear in its text - it was taken out in Committee -- and in two landmark Supreme Court decisions in 1915, never since reversed, it was held that the 16th Amendment gave Congress no taxing powers it did not already have.

Therefore, if the Income Tax were to apply to citizens of all the States, it would have to be apportioned; and those rulings said that requirement had not been changed.

Jim next revealed that he had studied the first Revenue Acts passed since ratification, and every one since, and found that each defined "Citizens of the United States" as people living in D.C. and the federal territories and enclaves. Accordingly, Congress could tax such people all it liked without apportionment, but not citizens of the 50 States, for they were never so defined and are therefore not subject to it.

Jim's unruffled performance in presenting his testimony and in attempting to enter into evidence over 70 books and other exhibits (prevented, on objection by Levine), had clearly impressed the jurors and by day's end Levine was on the defensive. His cross examination showed it.

Instead of probing the testimony Jim had given, he introduced checks Jim wrote 6 years earlier, to private schools for his kids' education. (Son Steve later mourned that having been introduced to the case, he might at least have been given a name!) Levine asked how it was that Jim had taken a European vacation just after stopping the payment of income tax, and how he could afford to live in such an exclusive neighborhood, on such a modest salary.

The very nasty aim was to discredit his motives before the jurors.

Day Three

That malodorous maneuver misfired, because Jim bounced right back the next morning with rebuttal testimony about his divorce settlement that convincingly explained the apparent extravagances.

Then summations were presented.

Levine's was not strong. He tried to make Jim out to be a protester who did not like the income tax, rather than a student who sincerely believed it inapplicable. He questioned his motives again, implying that Jim had been living comfortably off taxes the jurors had been honestly paying.

Jim then spoke, confidently and at length and without a single note. He dismissed as absurd the idea that he'd refused to file so as to save money - a mere \$13,000; he said he was either sincere,

Continued on page 10

FREEDOMWORKS '88

The Machinery of Liberty

The Libertarian Party of Michigan 1988 Nominating Convention

May 20-22, 1988
Airport Hilton Inn
Romulus, Michigan



Dr. Ron Paul

*Libertarian Candidate for
President of the United States*

Elected four times to the United States Congress from Houston, Texas, as a Republican, Dr. Paul was a member of the Banking Committee where he worked to re-establish a gold standard and curb the Federal Reserve. He was also the House sponsor of the U.S. Gold Commission and co-author of its minority report which became the libertarian "hard money" classic *The Case for Gold*. (Subject to availability)



Don Ernsberger

Co-founder, Society for Individual Liberty

A high school teacher from Warminster, Pennsylvania, Don is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and did masters and doctorate work in U.S. history and economics at Temple University. A member of the Libertarian Party and the National Committee Against Registration and Draft, Don gave the keynote address at the 1987 LP national nominating convention in Seattle, Washington.

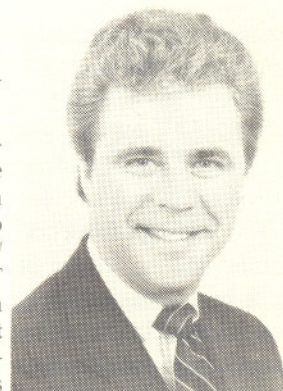


tion and Draft, Don gave the keynote address at the 1987 LP national nominating convention in Seattle, Washington.

John McCulloch

Program Host, John McCulloch's Open Line Detroit

For three years Mr. McCulloch hosted the number one rated radio talk show in Cleveland. In 1987 he came to Detroit's highly rated News/Talk radio station WXYT where he continues to host an afternoon drive program that deals extensively with political topics. Mr. McCulloch is quite familiar (even sympathetic) with most libertarian positions having had numerous and frequent libertarian guests such as Russell Means, Andre Marrou and Ron Paul.



Plus...

- Harry's War showing
- Screwball of the Year Award presentation
- Songs of Liberty performance
- Margaret O'Connor luncheon address

Dick Jacobs Enters U.S. Senate Race.



Lansing. Former LP candidate for Governor of Michigan, Dick Jacobs, held a press conference here on March 30 to announce his intention to seek the LPM nomination for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democratic incumbent, Donald Riegle.

"I think the American people have had enough of Republican and Democratic politicians who subsidize communist countries, vote themselves pay increases and vote against balanced budgets all with the same swift stroke of a pen," Jacobs told reporters.

"For over a century, these two parties have monopolized our political arena by the creation of very restrictive election laws. Laws which are designed to keep them in office and power. Their record of mismanagement is filled with contradictions and is hardly one to be proud of.

"Our national debt is over 1.5 trillion dollars and growing by more than 200 billion annually. This is not the kind of legacy we should be leaving our children and grandchildren.

"They talk about reducing the size of government, however, in the last eight years President Reagan has added 140,000 new bureaucrats to the government payroll.

"They have created a foreign aid policy which pays for bridges and harbors throughout the world at the same time that they neglect our own domestic needs.

"They claim to have given us a tax cut but tax revenues have increased by 59% since 1980.

"They call for peace around the world and financially and/or militarily support both sides in most of the current military conflicts."

Jacobs, a 1962 Graduate of Central Michigan University, is 49 years of age, and lives in Holland with his wife of 27 years, Carol. He has organized a campaign committee which can be contacted at:

Dick Jacobs for Senate Committee • 1016 Forest Hills Drive • Holland, MI 49424 • (616) 399-3430

Might 1, Right 0, Continued from page 8

or else ready to be taken away by someone in a white coat.

He told them that at one time, everybody had believed the Earth to be flat; and urged them to rely not on belief in this case, but on knowledge, some of which he had presented.

Finally, the Judge charged the jury. Except for the very damaging insistence that she and she alone was directing what jurors should take as the Law, on the whole it was well balanced. If the jurors felt Jim was sincere, the charge gave them adequate opportunity to find him innocent.

This author had no doubt at all that nobody could have presented a better case; that this unpracticed amateur was certainly in the same league as Levine, the polished professional.

While jurors deliberated, spirits among Lewis supporters were high. We could not imagine that any reasonable person could fail to see the calm sincerity that came all through his testimony.

Two hours later, we found we were wrong.

The Media

Reporters were present throughout most of the trial -- from the *Hartford Courant*, the *Bridgeport Post*, the *New London Day*, and the *New Haven Register*. Television was oddly absent, until two days after the trial, when Jim's local station visited and taped quite a favorable interview -- helped along, possibly, by the fact that the cameraman had just been invited to meet the IRS for an audit.

None of the articles were unfavorable, and there was plenty of opportunity for Jim's supporters to meet the reporters. It seems too high a price, but the fact is that Jim's stand has given us more, and more favorable, coverage than we have had in a very long time.

Steeped as they all were in decades of Statist influence, the reporters were more intelligent than the jurors, and perhaps better able by close contact to sense that Jim was 100% committed to his cause, and not in it for financial gain. Too bad they were not on the jury.

Where Next?

Jim Lewis has plenty of fight left -- he'll be calling for your help soon to bring Congress' attention to the legal issues suppressed in the trial.

Otherwise, we can best honor the example he has set by using the other door to freedom still ajar: the ballot box.

And that, of course, is what the Libertarian POLITICAL Party is all about. This Fall, we have the best candidate we have ever had, running for President. If we effectively support him, he is going to get a lot of exposure for four main planks:

Abolish the Income Tax, Bring the Boys Home, Establish a Gold Standard, and Leave Us Alone.

When Ron Paul's campaign peaks, Jim Lewis will almost certainly be in jail. His trial will not have been in vain. If it inspires the rest of us to be where we ought to be -- right at Paul's side, or on the streets getting him on the ballot, or financing some TV promotion time.

MDL to Host Poole

The Metro Detroit Libertarians' Supper Club will meet on May 16 at the Soup Kitchen Saloon, 1585 Franklin St., Detroit (2 Blocks south of Jefferson and just east of the Renaissance Center). The featured speaker will be Robert Poole, editor of *Reason* magazine and Chairman of the *Local Government Center* (a privatization think-tank). His topic is entitled "Mass Transit Failure - the Private Sector Alternative". Dinner will be selected from a special party menu with prices in the \$9.00-\$11.00 range. Because of the anticipated large turnout, reservations, menu selection, and payment must be made in advance. Additional information will be mailed prior to the Supper Club date. Please call 757-5085 if you have any questions.

LCC Highlights, Continued from page 7

being allowed to vote at that convention."

Volunteer Search

(Want to give time for freedom? Watch this column for volunteer opportunities)

Needed for '88-'89 year:

Fundraising/Development Coordinator. To raise money for LPM projects. This is a critical job that would produce the necessary means for spreading the message of freedom in Michigan.

Media Coordinator. To develop press contacts and produce news releases for the LPM. The LPM is currently putting out 5 or 6 news releases per year. Requires writing skill and access to a word processor.

Statewide Speaker's Bureau Coordinator. To develop a speaker's bureau for the LPM to bring libertarianism to outside organizations.

Help prepare bulk mailings -- two people needed in Detroit area to help mail newsletters and other special mailings. 2 hours every-other month.

Help at state convention, May 20-22. Help with registration, set up, chauffeuring speakers, decorations, etc. 3-4 hours.

To volunteer, Call the LPM Office - 313/334-449 anytime.

Libertarian vs Libertarian, Continued from page 2

American public if they are presented by a traditional looking candidate). I was one of them. However, I was in the minority. And in a voluntary organization, it is difficult to imagine a better system than the democratic process for making such decisions. However, I certainly did not stalk off muttering to myself about working for Jack Kemp or some other statist out of spite that the party failed to recognize the wisdom of my position.

This internecine warfare must stop! We are trashing each other while leviathan marches on (no doubt, laughing all the way at the folly of liberty's defenders). Let us not get so caught up in tactical disagreements that we lose sight of our real enemy: the state.

Fun Stuff, Continued from page 6

The first clause is for "damage control" and simplification, the second clause mainly for simplification of filing forms.

Forms

All candidates must fill out an Affidavit of Identity and a Certificate of Acceptance. The affidavit must be notarized. Further, state campaign finance laws require the completion (for state and county) of a Statement of Organization of Candidate Committee form within 10 days. Reporting to the Campaign Finance Department is then supposed to continue through the election until closure of your candidate committee. The two candidates for Supreme Court Justice also must fill out a (notarized) Affidavit of Constitutional Qualification.

All candidates attending the convention will receive a package of required forms at the time the nominating process begins. If you cannot be at the convention but expect to be nominated for state office, you must arrange to obtain and complete your forms and deliver them to the candidates committee before 5:00, Sunday afternoon, at the Airport Hilton Inn, Romulus. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

The candidates committee will assist all candidates in filling out their forms and detailed instructions will be given. A notary will also be on hand throughout the weekend. For forms and information, contact Brian Wright, 6689 Orchard Lake Rd., #249, W. Bloomfield, 48322, (313) 682-2763. Remember that nobody can be on the ballot who has not completed the Affidavit of Identity and Certificate of Acceptance and these must be in the hands of a member of the candidates committee before 5:00 p.m., Sunday, at the Airport Hilton Inn, Romulus.

Campaign Finance Act and Federal Election Law forms are not necessary for nomination, but if you ignore them, you'll get a bunch of nasty mail, eventually -- and the law does say you get penalized. The candidates committee will assist all individuals in filing the initial forms and provide basic instructions to keep you out of trouble. But if you plan to run an expensive campaign, you'll have to take care of the intricacies of this bureaucratic garbage yourself. I call it "full employment for accountants."

For your information, the final step in the nominating process is delivery of the forms and a certificate of nomination. State and federal candidates' names are filed in Lansing. County candidates' names are filed at their county clerks. We will generate the certificate of nomination for the state and federal candidates and will have certificates of nomination on hand for the filing convenience of those responsible for county candidates' filing.

**"We learn from history
that we don't learn
from history."**

--Hegel

Candidates' Statements

As offered in the last issue of ML, the following space has been provided for any announced candidates for any office open to the LPM in the November election. Each lists the candidate's name and office sought, followed by a brief statement written by the candidate.

Candidate: **Dick Jacobs**

Office: U.S. Senate

I have chosen to run for the office of U.S. Senate because it is the one statewide race, in which I felt I could best serve the total efforts of the party.

Having ran for the office of Governor in 1982 and having served as Director of the Tisch Coalition, I feel that my past statewide exposure and media coverage can easily be rekindled. This has already been confirmed by the excellent news coverage that we received from radio, television, and the printed media that covered my press conference at the Capitol Press Room on March the 30th.

As a candidate for this office, I want each of you to know that pending the necessary financial support, I am willing to run a full time campaign. This means I will commit to 120 days of active campaigning, which will cost approximately \$78,000 to cover all of my expenses plus a full time office girl, and the printing of 250,000 pieces of literature for distribution. PLEASE NOTE: I will not spend anymore than \$100,000, nor will I accept any money to cover my normal living expenses or my loss of income during this period. I am totally committed to this effort and want it to be a grass roots campaign. With your support, I can be on the campaign trail full time, and if I can't capture a million dollars worth of news coverage because of my efforts on the trail, I don't belong in the race.

I ask for your support of my nomination at the convention and I ask for your support of all nominated Libertarian candidates who have made the commitment. Now is the time for party unity and a concentrated effort. The fight for freedom deserves nothing less!

Candidate: **Timothy J. O'Brien**

Office: U.S. Senate

Positions

#1 Foreign Policy Issue: Disconnect the trip wire to Armageddon.

There is no more immediate and profound threat to the lives and property of the American people than our government's insane commitment to sacrifice us in a nuclear conflagration as a bluff to defend foreign countries. We must immediately withdraw from NATO and all other "mutual defense" treaties. After fifty years of dependence on U.S. concern and generosity, it's long past time that our so-called "allies" took responsibility for their own defense. Our commitments to these foreign

governments are nothing more than subsidies for our rich trading partners -- ultimately backed up by our pledge to commit suicide just to reassure them that they will not die alone. This issue also crosses over into the domestic arena because an end to foreign defense subsidies would -- in and of itself -- balance the federal budget.

#1 Domestic Policy Issue: Declare an immediate Cease Fire in the War on Drugs.

The number one domestic problem facing the American people is the disastrous consequences of our government's relentless efforts at prohibition. More than half of all the property crime in the U.S. is attributable to this impossible attempt to regulate people's voluntary behavior. The war on drugs is resulting in horrendous civilian casualties. I believe the American people have had enough of statist politicians' self-serving platitudes about protecting the poor junkie from the evils of his ways and are much more concerned about protecting their cars from theft, their homes from burglary, and their children from criminal drug dealers.

Strategy

Paid Political Advertising.

I believe the time has come for the LP to enter the real world of political contest. I anticipate raising between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for my campaign, the lion's share of which would be spent on buying radio air time. It is a simple fact of the marketplace that the American public does not accept as genuine anything not heard or seen on radio or TV. Unfortunately, it is unrealistic at this time to expect to raise the funds necessary to do television advertising. However, radio is well suited to our essentially non-visual message and is affordable at the levels of support we can reasonably anticipate. Two spots have already been produced (one of "Foreign Policy" and one on "Civil Liberties") and I hope to produce two more (one on "Economic Liberties" and one dealing exclusively with the old "Don't Waste Your Vote" objection). All of these are general in nature having fifty-five seconds dedicated to the respective messages and a five second tag ending with the line: "This time don't waste your vote on a Republican," (which is, I believe, the single most important theme we need to convey.) Even with limited resources, we should be able to dominate the airwaves in every major Michigan market during the last two weeks preceding the election. In addition, each of the four spots are general enough to benefit the campaigns of all of our candidates.

Confrontation.

I believe it is time to take the gloves off with statist like Donald Riegle. I will take every opportunity to denounce his advocacy of violence as a solution to our problems. We hold the moral high ground. I think it's about time that we began to take advantage of our superior position. Couched in insistent

but non-disparaging terms, this tactic should draw considerable media attention and will put a smug politician on the defensive. By the time we are actually approaching the election, Donald Riegle will not even want to appear on the same forum with me.

Candidate: **Virginia L. Cropsey**

Office: State Board of Education

With the increasing recognition of libertarianism as a distinct political philosophy comes an increasing demand for thoughtful, well-researched libertarian campaigns. Those who have been successful spokespersons for libertarian alternatives have been those most knowledgeable about current systems. I am seeking the Michigan LP nomination for State Board of Education because I believe I can maximize my abilities for freedom in this race. I have already begun my research, which includes continuing to maintain Michigan and national education research files which date back to 1980; reading the latest works in the area such as the Public School Monopoly; and obtaining a release from the President's Council on Privatization, What Price Democracy? Prepared by the Brookings Institute, it concludes that decentralization and vouchers are the antidote to government school mediocrity. I will make my research available for our candidates.

My name has significant identification with home schooling and decertification battles in Michigan, and I have friends in these movements who have agreed to support my candidacy. This will be a significant opportunity to win their support for more general libertarian principles. I am well-known to grassroots limited government activists around the state, and should it be necessary, perish the thought, to make the state board race our top of the ticket to preserve our ballot status in a future election, I will have experience with my statewide vote total, as well as grounding in education issues.

I will run an active campaign, taking advantage of any reasonable opportunity to deliver our message. In the past we have had statewide candidates who did not respond on time for inclusion in League of Women Voter materials. We cannot afford to run these people for statewide office.

My other qualifications include: valedictorian of my high school class; BA with high distinction from the University of Michigan - English major, political science minor, secondary teaching certificate; juris doctorate, Wayne State University School of Law; currently a procedures consultant for a major corporation. I have been a libertarian all my life. Active since 1972, I have voted for every LP Presidential ticket since Macbride's. I have been an LP candidate for Congress twice, Michigan Supreme Court once, and state senate once. In a nonpartisan race for local school board I came in third in a four person race for two positions, defeating a candidate with "children in the schools". I billed myself as a consumer of more years of government education than anyone in the race. The Detroit Free Press once described me as "an articulate advocate of the pristine doctrines of the libertarians." This past year I served as Michigan's National Platform representative. I have been

Macomb County LP Chair, signing up more than thirty LP candidates and assisting them in running credible, consistent campaigns. I ask for your support at the convention and throughout the campaign season.

Candidate: **Brett Bellmore**

Office: U.S. Representative

I am interested in running against U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee. He's sponsor of a bill to spend \$2.5 billion in day care subsidies. I can't spend much, but I will send out a press release, participate in debates, and respond to questionnaires.

My qualifications: I have been a libertarian for years, long before I knew anyone else held such views. Thus I am experienced in expounding libertarian philosophy in the face of criticism, and give libertarian responses to novel questions.

I've been writing letters to the editor successfully for years, so I already have some name recognition in Lapeer county. I'm also experienced at writing short, concise essays on libertarian subjects.

Philosophically, I'm an anarcho-capitalist libertarian, but I recognize that government can't be eliminated over night. I'm not opposed to incremental gains.

Candidate: **David Weidner**

Office: 26th District State Representative

David Weidner, 33, announces his plans to run a grassroots door-to-door campaign based on libertarian principles in the 26th district. Weidner will call his campaign committee, Citizens Against Taxation and Spending (CATS) with Jack Watts as Treasurer. A fundraiser is planned for June 11. Call 781-9007 for details.

Married with two children, Weidner has a bachelors in political science from the University of Michigan and has been a member of the Committee to Recall Serotkin and Tired of Taxes. He has petitioned for the Voter's Choice, Part-Time Legislature, and LPM ballot access.

Candidate: **Stan Gentry**

Office: 70th District State Representative

I would like to announce my candidacy for State Representative in district 70 which includes south Warren and Centerline. I will be running against Democratic incumbent, Loyd F. Weeks. I see my candidacy as an opportunity to campaign for Ron Paul and the other libertarian candidates as well as an opportunity to expound the benefits of freedom. I believe that the voters in my district deserve a sensible alternative to big state government, high taxes, fees, and regulations. I believe that I am the best qualified Libertarian Party member in my district and that the libertarian solution is the most sensible alternative to wasteful government attempts to solve today's problems such as poor education, crime, drugs, and unemployment.

Ron Paul Campaign Materials

If you need some Ron Paul campaign materials to share with friends and acquaintances, either of the two kits listed below can be ordered by contacting:

The Ron Paul for President Committee

1120 Nasa Road, Suite 104 • Houston, Texas 77058
(713) 333-1988

The Complete Ron Paul Campaign Kit

Eight-minute Video (*shown during Ron's nomination in Seattle*)

\$100.00 contribution

Ron on the Issues. 40 minute audio cassette

\$15.00 contribution

Ron on WRKO's Gene Burns Show, 50 minute audio cassette

\$15.00 contribution

Farewell Address to Congress, in bound book form.

\$10.00 contribution

5 Resignations letters to the Republican Party

\$5.00 contribution

The Story of Seattle. A narrative of Ron's Nomination.

\$50.00 contribution

Freedom Under Siege, the U.S. Constitution After 200 Years, Ron's new book.

\$25.00 contribution

25 pocket-sized brochures

\$5.00 contribution

25 Ron Paul for President buttons

\$6.25 contribution

10 Ron Paul for President bumperstickers

\$10.00 contribution

20 copies of latest On the Freedom Trial, the campaign newsletter

\$5.00 contribution

Order individual items, or get this entire package for a \$175.00 contribution.

The Ron Paul "Campaign Coffee" Kit

Audio Cassette: Ron on the Issues, 40 minutes

\$15.00 contribution

Audio Cassette-Ron on WRKO's Gene Burns Show, 50 minutes

\$15.00 contribution

Farewell Address to Congress, in bound book form

\$10.00 contribution

5 Resignations letters to the Republican Party

\$5.00 contribution

35 pocket-sized brochures

\$5.00 contribution

20 Ron Paul for President buttons

\$6.25 contributions

20 Ron Paul for President bumperstickers

\$10.00 contributions

35 Business Reply Envelopes and reply forms

Order individuals items, or get this entire kit for a \$19.88 contribution.

Start Counting

Now that the Federal Budget has cracked the Trillion Dollar barrier, it's worth pointing out in understandable terms just how astronomical such a figure is. For example, if you were to attempt to count to one trillion (one number per second, non-stop, around the clock), how long do you think it would take?

The answer is: Thirty one thousand, seven hundred years.

This suggests a possible solution to congressional profligacy. Senators and Representatives may authorize expenditures of any amount on any project they wish. The only proviso is that they must count out the money a dollar at a time.

A New Libertarian for 69¢??

That's all you are risking if you participate in a new outreach program to interest new people in the libertarian movement.

Here's what we have in mind.

Back in the 1940's and 50's, Frank Chodorov wrote about individualism. A number of his articles have been published in a book called "Fugitive Essays" by Liberty Classics of Indianapolis at an exceptionally reasonable price.

One of our members was so enthused about the book that he made an offer to a friend of his. "Here's a copy of a book called 'Fugitive Essays'. I think it is a great book and I believe you will too. If you don't think it is one of the best you have ever read, return it to me. If, however, you do like it, then I ask that you buy a copy from the publisher at \$4.00 and give it to a friend of yours under the same conditions. If he agrees it's a great book, he will buy another and give it to one of his friends. If he doesn't think it measures up, he returns it to you and you give it to another friend, same conditions."

In this way he hoped to revive interest in the book at a cost of only \$4.00 each. There was no cost to those readers who did not agree about the book. And for those who did, they also had a copy for their own library.

If you would like to read "Fugitive Essays" and see for yourself, write to:

The Libertarian Party/Michigan
322 Millington
Bloomfields Hills, MI 48013

and ask for "Fugitive Essays". We will send a copy to you. These are the conditions:

- 1) Read the book.
- 2) If you agree that it is outstandingly lucid libertarianism:
 - a. Order a copy from us at \$4.00.
 - b. Give the new copy to a non-libertarian friend under the same conditions as detailed above.
- 3) If you do not agree with our assessment of the book, return it.

And this is where the 69¢ comes in. That's how much it will cost you to return it to us. A small enough risk, we believe.

Does Michigan Measure Up?

by Lawrence M. Ludlow

Sorry, Michigan. Your bureaucrats and legislators just don't measure up. We know they tried, but even if they matched the intensive coursework required in New Jersey--*Money Meltdown*, *Seminar in Statism*, *We Need More 1* and 2, and *New Vistas in Parasitism*--they would still not be front runners in the Civil Service Olympics.

When I moved to Jersey City, with its breathtaking view of lower Manhattan and not much else, I didn't expect my Twit-O-Meter to jump off the scales and explode. It had undergone arduous progressive resistance training in the Detroit area for years, withstanding a constant barrage of proposals from public-education mongers, drug-scare fanatics, and tax-and-spenders. It came close to blowing a fuse now and then--with budget items such as counting the number of horses in the state, in-depth studies of swimmers' itch, and programs to help seniors overcome feelings of uselessness and boredom during their tax-subsidized, multi-year golden "vacation." (Oh, he must be a nasty guy!)

But no. After only two months, while taking my morning shower, I smelled smoke and heard a crackling sound. I ran to the bedroom and hurled the soon-to-explode Twit-O-Meter out the window into the empty parking lot four floors below. It was close: I could've been scraping government promises and tax-financed slogans off my walls for a week. Instead of "Say Yes to Michigan," New Jersey taxpayers cough-up for, "New Jersey and You: Perfect Together."

I can hear Michigan's state employees protesting now: "We're right up there with the big guns. We can spend, regulate, and persecute victimless criminals with the best of 'em." Sorry, but

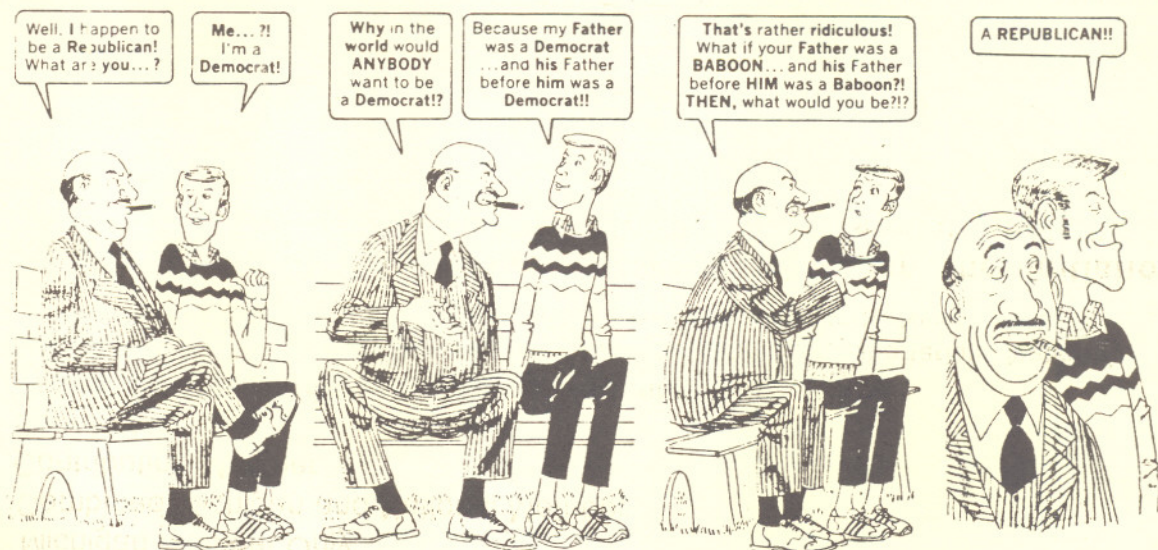
you can't compete with a Jersey City proposal to pass out free condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS among the populace and a statewide program (with television footage) to put blind, paraplegic, and other physically disabled people on downhill skis.

Now what could be wrong with that? Well, as for the condoms, if some unfastidious sexual activist decides his/her own life isn't worth the expense and effort, who am I to question their decision? Who but the individual is the best judge of his own worth? Besides, it would eliminate stupidity from the gene pool far more quickly--and cheaply--than public education. But I forgot. Isn't Michigan the place where buckling up is "Our Law?"

And as for encouraging the halt and blind to jump off snow-covered cliffs, isn't it a product of the same officials who tell us we can't buy safe meat or cars without paying their salary, who forbid self-supporting people from peacefully ingesting taboo substances "for their own good," who tell us we can't choose our children's schools without their lobotomizing input? Now they tax us to fund ski trips for the blind? If the Marquis de Sade had proposed such activities early in his career, the public outcry would've forced his premature retirement, and we would still be searching for synonyms for "IRS agent" and "Treasurer Bowman."

Uh oh. I can almost see the dim bulbs flickering on in heads all over Lansing, Detroit, Pontiac, and Mount Clemens--wherever state officials lurk. I didn't intend to give anyone any new ideas, but make sure to read your papers tomorrow: it spreads, and there's no cure yet.

The Two Party System



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

- ☐ \$10 Michigan Member Only
☐ \$20 Combined Michigan and National Member
☐ \$100 Contributing Member
☐ \$1,000 Benefactor
☐ \$10 **Michigan Libertarian** Newsletter Subscriber Only

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."

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

Send to:

Libertarian Party of Michigan

322 Millington Blvd.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013



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