



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1994

THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND OTHER TOOLS

By Keith P. Edwards

In our last issue, we printed a letter from Mike Marotta titled *The Second Amendment Is Irrelevant*. Like the letter with a differing view by Nick Bennett in that issue, the letter represents the opinion of the author only. It was not an official statement of the Libertarian Party of Michigan which is contained in the National LP Platform.

We remain committed to the defense of all Ten Amendments which make up the Bill of Rights as our best legal defense against tyranny, even though the U.S. Government has violated nine of them repeatedly in an attempt to make the entire Constitution "irrelevant". (Why is it still "our" government if it acts that way?)

These ten statements of our rights are an extension of our right to life which is derived from our nature as rational, valuing beings. If we had no values, self-defense would not be a moral issue. We need arms to repel attack by criminals, including the criminal class that has deliberately killed over 155 million people in the 20th Century alone, Government. We would be foolish to give up our guns around such barbarians as Janet "Firebug" Reno, the nation's highest ranking arsonist. Just having guns may dissuade SOME government agents from attacking SOMETIMES, but the arsenal of the Branch Davidians did not.

Marotta was correct about the lesson of Waco (and Ruby Ridge). We need not always use every weapon at our disposal if they are self-defeating. No one person or group

is likely to win a shootout with the BATF or FBI because these cowards only attack in substantial numbers against an individual, family or small group. They do not simultaneously attack all libertarians, gun owners, tax resisters and religious minorities. They never will. They intend to pick us off one at a time. In the June-July, 1993, issue, I called for abolishing the BATF and unarming the FBI as a start. There are a hundred or so other gestapos in this nation. And, recall that the unarmed victims at Kent State got more public sympathy than either the Branch Davidians or the Randy Weaver family.

Firearms seizures are not right and should be opposed on principle, not just on the basis of nit-picking over the intent of the Founders. But Marotta has a valid point in showing how one electronic advance helped defeat the Federales legally. David Robine points out in this issue on page 3 that method may not always work, but it is an example of the many tools we can use. For example, governments can no longer rely on secrecy, as the Soviets found out. World opinion, persistent computer hackers, government whistleblowers, libertarian moles and others can reveal most any thing the government is up to. Government is also far more vulnerable to retaliation in a computer age than in the days of pen, paper and miles of filing cabinets. Some 16 year old hacker could do more to the IRS than 100 Irwin Schiffs throwing themselves in front of the train.

I recall reacting to the aggressive use of swords in the movie *Romeo and Juliet* by thinking, "When swords are outlawed, only outlaws will have swords. Others will in-

(Continued on Page 3)

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For information on meeting times and location in your area, call the local coordinator listed above.

RENEE EMRY AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA

By Richard Clark

Fifteen years ago, at the tender age of 19, Renee Emry of Ann Arbor was told she would be in a wheelchair within five years. She had just been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

She soon discovered that marijuana helped alleviate the spasms, blurred vision, etc. The doctor said there was a lot of empirical evidence for the effectiveness of marijuana as a "medicine" for MS. However, there was no "medical" evidence and due to government regulations, he could not prescribe it.

Being an intelligent individual, Renee started to "get medicated" on a daily basis and lead a semi-normal life. As a result of the War on Drugs, marijuana became very expensive and Renee began to grow her own. After several years she became really proficient at growing her own medicine.

On February 15, 1994, the police, acting on a tip, busted her. On July 29, 1994, in an episode right out of Keystone Cops, she was formally arrested on charges of possessing marijuana. On September 16, 1994, she was arraigned on the charge in 15th District Court. Judge Patrick Connor mentioned the unique aspect of medical necessity as a defense for the possession of marijuana.

Renee's trial begins September 22. This could be a landmark case. It could go to the U.S. Supreme Court. A legal defense fund has been established. The address is:

Medical Marijuana Defense Fund For Renee Emry
 United Medical Marijuana Smokers of Michigan
 11280 McKinley
 Taylor, MI 18180

Renee is willing to speak to local groups. Call her at 313-996-8326 or write to her at 1911 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND OTHER TOOLS (Cont.)

vent firearms." Well, someone, somewhere, is probably working on some ultra sound or laser device that could wipe out a whole company of BATF creatures in seconds, and/or creating a better, concealable stun gun to disable ordinary criminals.

Panic not, libertarians and gun owners! Governments are always subject to the Law of Unintended Consequences, but never admit it. Libertarians, of all people, should know that the free market, underground or not, will create new products and services to meet demand, including defense against tyranny. The market is there. If you have forgotten this, read Henry Hazlitt's Economics in One Lesson or Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand.

My personal belief is that rationality, moral certainty and communication are our best weapons. The more minds we win to our principles, the less the Federales will be able to get away with. Then non-violent non-cooperation will win the war. You might revisit the movie, Gandhi, as I do often.

To those who over-reacted to Mike Marotta's letter either through headline surfing, or scanning a paragraph or two, or who just missed the point, or who went into total panic at the fear of losing a few votes of people who don't even read this publication, I say, chill out, check your premises, and PONDER THE IDEAS Mike has hinted at. Think! Hysteria and short-term pragmatism are the tools of government, not of freedom lovers. When libertarians fail to think, slander other libertarians and scurry out of meetings in fear of discovering one's own errors, we start to lose. Irrationality has no place in the fight for freedom.

Rationality, moral certainty and communication are our tools and the basis for our weapons. The courage to examine new ideas and the rejection of demagogy are what created this once great, free land. They are also what will regain it.

Those who fear scorn are those who deserve it,
Maxims of LaRochefoucauld

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS RELEVANT

By David Robine

The primary rights that a human being possesses are the rights to life, liberty and property. The right to defend oneself against all aggressors is a corollary to the right to life. To deny this is to agree that another has the right to make you a slave. The Second Amendment merely reiterates the right so that it is clear to an out of control tyrannical government. These steps of logic should be obvious to all, simple as they are.

Surely it is a mistake for a Son of Liberty to advocate that the Second Amendment to the Constitution is irrelevant. But I don't think Mr. Marotta was arguing that one does not have a right to defend oneself. It is fair enough to say that electronic media is a valuable tool in the defense of liberty, but it's a supporting role in provoking thought and establishing principle before the act, providing information during the act and clarifying the smoke and fumes of disputed claims after the fact. When you have an army camped outside your door to serve you with a specious warrant, they do not hesitate because you are hooked up to the internet and thousands of computer dweebs across the country will know what happened. They hesitate because you have firepower to match firepower and the will to use it. Remember, a tyrant knows only the one thing that he can effectively employ and responds only to the threat of the same. Remember what George Washington said (in paraphrase); "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

One further fallacy in the presentation is the notion that the tools of modern communication stand alone. A computer needs electric power which was cut in Waco. It needs telephone lines to communicate, which were cut. Satellite uplinks, cellular phones and CB radios are easily jammed by anyone with a modicum of knowledge about electronic communications which the FBI possesses in abundance.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IS RELEVANT (Continued)

It is foolish to make the connection between the usefulness of these important tools and the front line of the maintenance of liberty. In the long term, it is undoubtedly accurate to say that these tools are primary in defending freedom because they are useful in preventing situations like Waco from ever occurring. But when the situation degenerates, it is not electronic media that will save you, but rather military-grade firepower. There are many of us for whom liberty is not an intellectual exercise, but our very life. We will fight to the death to preserve it. From the blood of patriots is where the tree of liberty draws its life and the use of force, in retaliation, is the only way to guarantee your precious freedom.

FRANCE PRIVATIZES!

The French government is moving toward the privatization idea that scares so many American bureaucrats. The French, ruled by socialist ideas for decades, are planning to privatize its interest in the automaker Renault, and in the aluminum and packaging giant, Pechiney, S.A. Among the latter's subsidiaries is the U.S. firm American National Can. Pechiney was nationalized in 1982. Didn't take long to find their mistake.

RAND FEATURED IN INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

Investor's Business Daily, which printed a feature of the libertarian movement on the front page last year, had a feature on Ayn Rand on Monday, August 8, 1994, again on the front page. Subtitled "Rand's Objectivist Philosophy Still Endures," the item was itself quite objective about the impact Rand has had, accurately described her ideas. It was written by staff writer Charles Oliver, formerly of Reason Magazine.

Investor's Business Daily regularly runs think pieces exploding economic myths. It is valuable intellectual ammunition and we recommend it highly.

MARGO JANUS DIES

Margaret "Margo" Janus, sister of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, died of a heart attack on September 11, 1994, at age 68. Mrs. Janus was associated with Dr. Kevorkian's drive to legalize assisted suicide in Michigan, serving as recordkeeper, counsel to the families of his patients and worker in the Constitutional amendment drive. She was buried September 14.

Margo accepted the LPM's Freedom Fighter Award on Jack's behalf at the Libertarian Week Banquet last October at which she impressed us with her knowledge, sincerity and devotion to the cause. She was a really fine person.

Contributions in her memory may be made to MERCY Fund, P.O. Box 790, Troy, MI 48099.

ELECTION DAY REMINDERS

November 8 is the date of the General Election. Our candidate for US Senate, Jon Coon, is the "top of the ticket" for the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Contact Jon Coon for U.S. Senate Headquarters and volunteer to help both before and on Election Day. His vote total is vital to the ballot status of the Party and he has run an excellent campaign. Let's not let him down! Visit the HQ at 24705 John R in Hazel Park or call 1-800-JON COON.

Our election law guru Tom Jones reminds us that on election day those handing out literature must stay at least 100 feet from a polling place by Michigan Election Law 744. The U.S. Supreme Court has "upheld such statism", says Tom.

He also reminds us that anyone who wants to be a challenger at the polls, must contact county, city, township clerks 10-20 days before the election. (Michigan Election Law Sections 730-734.

At stake is the need to retain ballot status, attain major party status and, of course to win office and spread the word about freedom.

FINAL LIST OF 50 CANDIDATES ESTABLISHED

With the addition of two candidates for the Ann Arbor City Council, the Libertarian Party of Michigan now has a total of fifty on the fall ballot, up 92% from 1992. Here is a list of our NIFTY FIFTY!

- US Senate Jon Coon
- State Board of Education
 - Erwin J. Haas
 - David H. Raaflaub
- U of M Board of Regents
 - Gary R. Bradley
 - Emily H. Salvette
- MSU Board of Trustees
 - Benjamin I. Bachrach
 - Mary J. Ruwart
- Wayne State Board of Governors
 - Thomas W. Jones
 - Brian R. Wright
- US House of Representatives
 - Dist. 3 Barrie L. Konicov
 - Dist. 7 Kenneth L. Proctor
 - Dist. 8 Gerald R. Turcotte Jr.
 - Dist 13 Craig L. Seymour
- State Senate
 - Dist. 13 Henry Freriks
 - Dist. 14 Richard C. Gach
 - Dist. 15 David S. Thompson
 - Dist. 16 Leslie C. Balian
 - Dist. 19 Nicholas G. Bennett
 - Dist. 30 Steve Butler
- State House of Representatives
 - Dist. 3 Joann M. Karpinski
 - Dist. 7 Scott A. Boman
 - Dist. 15 Ted Tifrea
 - Dist. 17 Alexander J. Stevenson
 - Dist. 19 John J. Tater
 - Dist. 26 Keith P. Edwards
 - Dist. 27 Mathew R. Ignash
 - Dist. 29 Paul M. Soyk
 - Dist. 31 John W. Fagan
 - Dist. 32 Robert Van Oast
 - Dist. 33 James S. Boyle
 - Dist. 34 Mary Wayfield
 - Dist. 37 Yepram Dervahanian
 - Dist. 45 Kay Barr Suri
 - Dist. 52 James L. Hudler
 - Dist. 64 Robert T. Slaughter
 - Dist. 75 James Lundy
 - Dist. 76 Dan Marsh
 - Dist. 79 Scott Beavers

County Commissioners

- Allegan Dist. 5 Rick Dutkiewicz
- Hillsdale Dist. 5 Barbara A. Vozenilek
- Jackson Dist. 4 Jeffrey L. Grund
- Kent Dist. 10 Glenn Barr
- Kent Dist. 15 Todd Greene
- Kent Dist. 16 Ed Van Wesep
- Oakland Dist. 5 Barbara B. Goushaw
- Oakland Dist. 22 Putnam Weekley
- Ottawa Dist. 7 Jeffrey Terhaar
- Ottawa Dist. 12 Stephen Otzman

ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL

- SECOND WARD Doug Friedman
- THIRD WARD Richard DeVarti

As for the two additions, Doug Friedman is a new arrival in Michigan. He was formerly the Chair of the New York City Libertarian Party. Richard DeVarti is the manager of his family's owned Dominick's Restaurant on Monroe in Ann Arbor, where the Wash-tenaw Libertarians meet each Thursday. (The pizza is excellent!)

Both candidates plan a very active campaign.

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Dave

COMMON SENSE BY TOM PAINE

Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them; whereas they are not only different, but have different origins. Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively by uniting our affections, the latter negatively by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first is a patron, the last a punisher.

Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state is but a necessary evil; in its worst state an intolerable one: for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a Government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer. Government, like dress, is the badge of lost innocence. . .

I draw my idea of the form of government from a principle of nature which no art can overturn, viz. that the more simple anything is, the less liable it is to be disordered, and the easier repaired when disordered. . .

The temper makes as many errors as the mind.

Our faults are generally more excusable than the means we take to hide them.

Each age of life is new to us; no matter how old we are we are still are troubled by inexperience.

Maxims of LaRochefoucauld

POWER INVESTING

THE COLLECTIVISTS ARE KILLING THE ECONOMY. BUT YOU CAN PROSPER WITH THIS FAST TRACK INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.

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MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

Great leaders

HORTON — Americans hear continually that we need a great leader, someone with compassion who cares about people. We especially need a leader who cares about our children, the most abused, neglected, poverty stricken, illiterate, amoral generation of youngsters this country has ever seen. In order to rescue these victims from their hellish fate, we need a leader who will make sure that citizens who have managed to procure a job and make some money do not spend it on their own selfish desires. A great leader will ensure that these greedy individuals contribute their fair share, by more taxation, to assure a level playing field for the poor and downtrodden.

Lest these selfish individuals balk at giving up their hard-earned profits, he will use force to make sure that they comply with the law. Anyone resisting will go to prison. Strong resistance will invoke the risk of being shot.

This type of leader is a combination of Karl Marx and Adolph Hitler.

Such leadership has led to the current situation in which parents take no responsibility for the children they bring into the world; where welfare has replaced honest hard work; where employers are required to provide pensions, sick leave, health care, child care, parental leave, etc., as well as minimum wage. The results are jobs unfilled or lost jobs.

Children are encouraged to report on their parents, women are at war with men, blacks are at war with whites, and everyone is a victim of some sort demanding his or her "fair share" of government largesse.

America was conceived on the premise that each individual is free to pursue his or her own idea of happiness while being responsible for his own actions and receiving help from no one. If we need leaders at all, they should be those who practice these ideals in their daily lives and not leaders who control and steal through taxation to promote their personal visions.

We need leaders who have confidence in individual citizens to take care of their own needs and those of their children by allowing them to keep what they earn and spend as they wish.

Do not be seduced into believing you need a great leader. Only you know what is best for you and your children.

Nancy J. Bennett
Libertarian

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT, MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1994

The Michigan Libertarian is published bi-monthly as the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Michigan. Scheduled publication is January, March, May, July, September and November.

Articles and letters to the editor should be submitted by the 30th of the previous month. Text should be typewritten and double-spaced. Unsigned material is not used. Submissions may be edited.

Advertising is available at \$5.00 per column inch or fraction thereof for camera ready copy

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You show me the perfect constitution and I'll show you how to corrupt it. And there will always be those evil enough to try.

Keith Edwards 1966

POLICY ON MEETINGS

All meetings of the Executive Committee and the Libertarian Advisory Council will start at the scheduled time.

The Council is the legislative body of the LPM between annual conventions. Quorum is 30% of the membership including proxies. The By-laws specify that a member giving his proxy to another member can do so only by giving that person his membership card for the duration of the time the proxy is in force. If there is no quorum at the scheduled meeting time, a meeting of the Executive Committee will begin instead. All LPM members may vote at Council meetings, but only Executive Committee members may vote at Committee meetings.

At the Annual Convention, all members who register and attend may vote, but a first time member must have been a member at least 30 days prior to the Convention in order to vote. There are no proxies at the Convention.

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Note: All memberships include the LPM newsletter. National memberships includes a subscription to Libertarian Party News.

Make checks payable: Libertarian Party of Michigan

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Applications for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below.
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This does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.

Signature _____



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