



MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MICHIGAN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1995

LIBERTARIANISM HITS THE FRONT PAGE!

The Libertarian movement was featured on the front page of The Wall Street Journal on January 20. A first-column article by Gerald F. Seib and extending into the inner pages was titled, "Less Is More. Libertarian Impulses Show Growing Appeal Among the Disaffected." The sub-title was, "When the Government Fails, Many Voters Are Asking: Who Needs It Anyway?"

The article discusses the growing disdain for government among more and more Americans who are "drifting - often unwittingly - toward a libertarian Philosophy." It says "much of the angry sentiment coursing through their veins today isn't traditionally Republican or even conservative. It's libertarian. Referring to several freshman Congressmen, Seib tells of the growth of libertarian philosophy in Washington. They worry that they "can't find enough fully cooked plans for dismantling agencies." Some of the private citizen libertarians quoted are former Democrats.

Seib also mentions the issue of "anonymous digital cash, a plan for creating electronic cash, untraceable by government. The tax collectors "would be powerless to exact a toll on this barter in electronic play money."

The Libertarian Party is covered, citing an 11% jump in contributions and members in the past year and quotes National Director Perry Willis. It closes by disclosing that the National staff is to be doubled and moved from its current shabby headquarters to . . . the Watergate complex!

In the past, The Wall Street Journal has

totally ignored the libertarian movement in general and the LP in particular, never even mentioning the Marrou campaign in 1991-92. Yet the paper has carried many Cato Institute articles and at least one by Heartland and has taken libertarian positions with greater frequency. Its younger rival, Investor's Business Daily, has been more openly libertarian and now the Journal has taken the plunge. This is the third recent mention of libertarianism there.

The article was quite objective, citing the positions of the LP that scare off some potential allies, but stressed the growing attachment of Americans to the philosophy.

It seems that libertarianism is not moving into the mainstream. The mainstream is flowing toward libertarianism and liking the name and the philosophy.

NEWS BRIEFS

On January 10, The Wall Street Journal carried an article by James Bovard titled "No Accountability at the FBI" in which he blasted the agency for its cover-up and mild spanking of agents involved in the Randy Weaver- Ruby Ridge case. Bovard pointed out the lies told by the FBI in its defense of its assault and murders in that sad event. The story reported on the events of Ruby Ridge fully but concisely. It is the first harsh attack on the Federal Bureau of Incendiaries to appear in the major media. See it at your library.

Last year's tax bill expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit to include "childless taxpayers over age 24 and under 65 who are
(Continued on Page 4)

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LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

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Upper Peninsula:		
East		
Central	Jack McHugh	906-428-4710
West		
University of Michigan		
	Shawn Brown	313-994-9380

LOCAL MEETINGS

The following local libertarian groups meet on a regular basis at the location and time listed. You are welcome to attend. Most of these groups meet for dinner with either a formal program or work session following. Call the contact listed in column one to confirm the date of the next meeting if you have not attended before.

Washtenaw meets at Old Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor, every Thursday. Sometimes at U-M Union. Call James Hudler to confirm.

LP of Mid-Michigan (Lansing area) meets at Sneeker's Restaurant, 600 N. Homer, off US-127, Lansing second Thursday of month.

Oakland LP meets at Mr. B's Restaurant, 423 Main St., Rochester on the third Wednesday of the month.

Wayne Co. LP meets at the Red Lobster, 6850 N. Telegraph in Dearborn on the first Tuesday of the month.

Macomb Co. meets at Ryan Roadhouse, 3950 14 Mile Rd., Warren, on the second Wednesday of the month.

Metro Detroit Libertarians is a supper club with a featured speaker. It is not a part of the Libertarian Party. It meets on the fourth Monday of the month at one of several locations. Call Tim O'Brien to confirm the exact time, date and location, at 313-562-5778.

If your area is not listed above, call the local coordinator to find your local schedule.

Gillies [★] [★] [!] **INC.**

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Dave

LIBERTARIAN OR CONSTITUTIONALIST?

By Keith Edwards

It has come to my attention that a number of people who call themselves libertarians are joining together to form a "Constitution Party." The name of the 1988 Libertarian Presidential candidate has been mentioned in this connection. As I am LPM Chair, no one has provided me with details, so I confess ignorance thereof, but one of them has just written to me saying that they "will continue to support Libertarian candidates . . ."

Now perhaps I am missing something, but I thought a political party supported its own candidates, not those of another party. Why would Constitutionalists support Libertarians? Aren't they going to run their own? If not, why have a separate party when they consider Libertarians worthy of support? Either they are suffering from some very fuzzy thinking or they are thinking clearly but have more obscure motives, such as not provoking us into opposition until they are strong enough to knock us out of the game.

It's certainly easy to assume their thinking is fuzzy. Take the names, for example. A libertarian, according to Webster, is a person who values liberty. Liberty is a political premise and also an ethical conclusion arising from our nature as beings with a rational capacity. The initiation of force is opposed to free, rational thought and must be prevented. If liberty is a political primary, "libertarian" is the best term to describe those who believe in its benefits. A constitutionalist apparently believes that constitutionality is a primary, but the only good reason to have a constitution is to legally protect liberty. Some fairly free societies get by without a constitution and where constitutions exist they are either a sham, as in the old Soviet Union or are imperfect and easily perverted as in the United States. If constitutionalism is a primary, then everything in it is OK, including slavery (from 1789 to 1865) or legalized extortion under the 16th Amendment. If religious persecution were constitutional, would we be forced

to persecute? (Of course Janet Reno did so without a mandate.)

To name a party the Constitution Party is to confess one's superficiality, although the motive clearly was to attract conservatives. Reason is an ethical primary, liberty is a political primary and constitutions are mere political tools, possibly useful, possibly destructive.

Because the Libertarian Party is fundamental and definitive, and because it is growing and, along with the rest of the libertarian movement (Cato, Reason, ISIL, Laissez-Faire Books, professors, economists et al) becoming more popular both in name and as a philosophy (see Page one), there is no sense to split its vote, dilute its influence and siphon off its supporters into another party. Why do it?

Several motives come to mind. Some are characteristic of outsiders, Republicans, for one, or insiders (libertarian).

1. Divide and conquer is an ancient ploy used by outsiders. Republicans would be the main suspects as we have usually taken more votes from them than from Democrats, although this is changing.

2. Destroy the conceptual base and divert from purpose (defending liberty) to a secondary concept (constitution) or to a non-concept (family values) usually by outsiders.

3. Dissatisfaction with progress by insiders. Some "instant gratification" types fail to understand how long it takes to build up to a majority position. So, instead of increasing their efforts in a 24 year old organization, they start a new one from scratch, 24 years behind.

4. Personal goals, such as trying to increase one's business mailing list which did not grow enough as a 1988 conservative turned libertarian and 1992 libertarian turned conservative. Outsider, insider, which is he anyway?

(Continued on Page 4)

NEWS IN BRIEF (Continued)

LOCAL LEADERS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The second state-wide local organization workshop will be held Saturday, February 11 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in Ann Arbor at the Courtyard Marriott. Topics will include:

Meeting Organization - Keith Edwards
 Scheduling
 Setting an agenda
 Parliamentary procedure
 Organizing social events

Membership - Ben Bachrach
 Organizing your membership system
 Recruiting new members
 Maintaining your membership list

Money - Dave Nagy
 Responsibilities of the Treasurer
 Fund raising ideas

Media Relations - Barb Goushaw
 Publicizing your events
 Writing a press release
 Compiling a media list

Campaign Issues for Local Groups - Jon Coon
 Running your local caucus
 Certification of election challengers
 Campaign finance laws.

Newsletters - James Hudler
 What to include
 Lay-out and design
 Mailing

You will be notified of the exact location and other details. This will be a free afternoon of information for all LPM members. Plan to attend and stay on in Ann Arbor for the first annual

SAMUEL ADAMS DINNER

sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County, Saturday, February 11, 6:00PM-1:00 AM. Speakers, dancing.

For more information on either event, call Emily Salvette at (313) 747-8129

not claimed as an exemption on another taxpayer's return." This includes a large number of prisoners based on the income they earn from their labor in prison. It is estimated that they will collect about \$14 million over the next five years. Gives 'em a good start after their early release, no doubt.

Investors Business Daily continues to cover and promote libertarian ideas. On January 4 it carried a first page article titled "Is Transportation Department Needed?" The next day the subject was "Can Energy Department Wither Away?" On January 10 it discusses how states handle balanced budget laws, pointing out that those states with such a law rarely had deficits, while the 11 states that do not, have deficits about 25% of the time. The record is best in those states that have both the balanced budget law and a super majority requirement for tax increases.

Libertarians differ on the wisdom of the balanced budget requirement at the federal level, but the article showed how it works best.

LIBERTARIAN OR CONSTITUTIONALIST?

(Continued from Page 3)

5. Someone who wishes to be a larger fish in a smaller pond? Insider.

There may be other motives or variations and combinations of the above, friendship with an organizer, perhaps. None of them refute the libertarian message. We hope that some of these people reject the CP and join or return to the LP. We can afford to be patient. We are gaining strength in numbers, dollars, skills, experience, media attention, adherents and respect. We do not intend to be diluted, diverted or deluded.

We would be foolish to offer any cooperation, compromise or respect to the Constitution Party.

What We Must Do
By Mark Owen

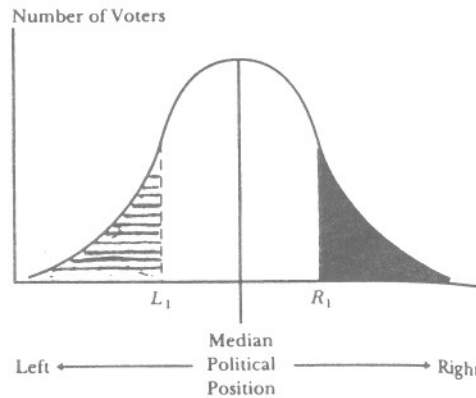
The Libertarian Party faces an uphill battle, as we all know. The structure of the American political system makes it difficult for a third party to become prominent. Unlike many European political systems, where as low as a 5% showing can earn your party representation in the national and provincial legislature, in the United States you need at least a plurality and often an outright majority to gain a seat, depending on the state. If we are to achieve victory, we must stand by our principles, but we must be pragmatic in our approach.

We must in effect create a big tent, where non-purists can feel comfortable, while furthering the agenda of liberty. A person who scores a 70-70 on the Nolan Chart must be nurtured, and not be made to think we are just a bunch of unrealistic extremist zealots. The reality of our situation needs to be better defined so we may attain our common vision.

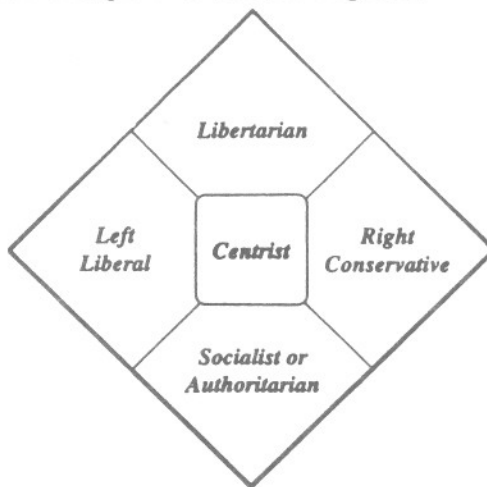
In the American political arena, we are faced with the fact that our entire system revolves around a single pole. With the assistance of our constitution, this has resulted in possibly the most stable government ever. It also results in a centrist bias. This system probably saved us from the socialist excesses experienced in Europe, but our "Road to Serfdom" has only proved to be a more drawn out affair.

This situation can best be illustrated graphically. Candidates desiring to be elected in our system will have a tendency to be pulled toward the center. In a two party race, a candidate will not have much incentive to attract voters that are already on the opposing side of his opponent, since these voter have no

other choice. For example, a conservative would still vote for waffling moderate George Bush than for liberal-fascist Bill Clinton, though people do have the option of not voting. This is the reason we have Republicrats.



The Nolan Chart makes this whole situation more promising, but the essence of the logic is still the same. On the Nolan Chart, we observe the realms of the current major parties. Our zone is quite open, while the other three are occupied to various degrees.



If we are to become a major political force; if our platform of liberty is to replace the current order, we must fully understand the rules of the game. We claim to be proponents of "natural law", but we ignore the natural laws of political economy. Our current lack of

clout leads to most potential Libertarians voting Republican and Democrat, and it is liberty that suffers. Ludwig von Mises probably stated it best in his Theory and History. "A statesman can succeed only insofar as his plans are adjusted to the climate of opinion of his time, that is to the ideas that have got hold of his fellows' minds. He can become a leader only if he is prepared to guide people along the paths they want to walk and toward the goal they want to attain. A statesman who antagonizes public opinion is doomed to failure. No matter whether he is an autocrat or an officer of democracy, the politician must give the people what they wish to get, very much as a businessman must supply the customers with the things they wish to acquire." We must continue to educate the public, which has lead to many Libertarian ideas becoming commonly discussed today. We must not sell out our principles, but we must package them in mainstream language. For example, rather than push the highly controversial subject of drug legalization, which often seems to be an Achilles heal of ours in the minds of the public, we should attack the disastrous effects of the "War on Drugs." In order for our principles to emerge victorious, we must understand what we have to do to best promote the cause of liberty.

Mark Owen has a masters degree in Economics from Central Michigan University. He teaches economics and mathematics at Baker and Northwood Colleges. He is currently the acting chair of the Libertarian Party of Mid-Michigan.

Take the line of welfare reasoning further

JACKSON — The Citizen Patriot rightly criticized Congress for wanting to "impose" deep cuts in welfare benefits on the states (Nov. 29, "Welfare reform: Cutbacks needed, but keep it fair"). You should go all the way, though, and demand that Congress get out of the welfare business and leave it to the states, including fund-raising. What could be more of a hindrance to states than too much money going to Washington?

Take your analysis one step further, though: Why would the state be better than the local community? There is nothing magical about the state level. Any criticism about centralism in the state-federal government relationship could be just as valid in the state-community relationship.

Why not reform welfare to establish a community-based emergency support sys-

tem? This would have the further benefit of making the services more oriented to the individual needs of the recipients, and not to some statistical generality. Funding would more directly depend on perceived need and effectiveness of the program, so people would be more willing to contribute voluntarily, and would not have to be forced to do so at the point of a gun (taxes).

I'm also quite happy that the Democrats (and you) have accepted the Libertarian criticism that all government transfer programs are welfare programs: Some are just welfare for the rich, and others for the poor. Now, if you'll just realize that all those welfare programs are plunder (or if all the citizens would realize it), we would be even better off.

Tom Slaughter

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1994

Two-party system offers little choice

12-16-94

The newspapers are filled with articles about hand-wringing, Democratic politicians trying to find ways to recapture their once-popular appeal with the voters. But we needn't worry about the Democrats: They'll be back.

Politics in America is like a baseball game. Right now the Republicans are up to bat and the Democrats are in the outfield. But both sides know that sooner or later, the Democrats will again have their turn at bat, and it will be the Republicans' turn to whine about the impending disaster that will befall us all at the hands of the opposition.

What never changes is that only Republicans and Democrats ever get to play the game. They control the field because they set all of the rules. They have designed campaign finance and ballot access laws to favor themselves and to impede other parties that might offer an alternative to our current non-choice. The media assist in this effort by giving condescending and minimal coverage to the campaigns of alternative candidates.

Republicans and Democrats are merely flip sides of the same coin. And until America can overcome its pointless reverence for the "two party system," continuation of the status quo is all but ensured.

NANCY GERAGOSIAN
DET. NEWS Allen Park

Like a cancer out of control, the penalty of forfeiture has spread from drug law violations to prostitution ("Vice may cost buyer a vehicle," Jan. 7).

These seizures are termed "civil" to preempt due process and other protections citizens are guaranteed under the Constitution.

R. Gach
Bloomfield Hills 12-15-95
DET. FREE PRESS

Equal representation

A presidential line-item veto and congressional term limits are giant steps toward monarchy-tyranny ("The Contract: Reining in Spending," Jan. 1 editorial).

The American Revolution was fought in major part to obtain separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers in the federal and state governments to minimize having tyrants with all such powers.

Rather than enacting a line-item veto and term limits to reduce federal legislative gridlock, the single-member gerrymander of the U.S. House of Representatives should be replaced with multimember districts and proportional representation to enforce the popular will and make every election in every district competitive (compared with the 10-15 percent of all districts that are currently competitive).

The U.S. Senate and the existing president's veto should be abolished to increase separation of powers and abolish the gridlock.

12-15-95 THOMAS W. JONES
DETROIT NEWS Detroit

Mixed feelings

We can still use ballots rather than bullets to prosecute peaceful change. But because a majority have allowed the Constitution to be violated and misrepresented, the government exercises illegitimate power in every aspect of our lives.

Thus, our elections often boil down to a choice of rulers. These rulers, Democrats and Republicans alike, have unleashed swarms of officers upon peaceful civilians.

These would-be tyrants and henchmen are the King George and redcoats of our day. It is probably wise to nourish some potential for armed protection against them, because they appear to understand nothing but force.

Brian Wright
Farmington Hills
DETROIT FREE PRESS
10-22-94

Human reproductivity responds to the economic/political system. In a welfare state, parents expect that the state will pay for children. Eventually, population expands to the point where the state insists on forceful or even immoral methods of population control.

In a free-market society, parents calculate the expenses of a new child and produce children who must earn their living, thus keeping population essentially in balance with economic productivity.

KEN AND PHYLLIS CORY
DETROIT NEWS China

CALENDAR

There will be a meeting of the Libertarian Advisory Council/Executive Committee on February 19 at 1:00 at the home of Keith Edwards.

The 1995 Annual Convention of the LPM will be held on the weekend of April 28-30 at the Grand Rapids Hilton, just off I-96. The Libertarian Party of Western Michigan will host the event and the Ottawa LP will handle the Friday night entertainment. Dan Marsh is Convention Chair. This should be an especially enjoyable affair and a minimum of heavy business is planned. Brochures will be sent out shortly.

See Page 4 for details of the local leaders conference and Sam Adams Dinner on Feb. 11.

The Ann Arbor Libertarian Alliance and the Washtenaw LP will also host these events:

Feb. 2, Thursday. Meeting celebrating Ayn Rand's birthday at Old Heidelberg Restaurant, 215 N. Main St. at 6:30 (dinner).

March 2, Thursday. Professor Richard Ebeling of Hillsdale College will speak at the Michigan Union on State St. at 7:30. Room to be announced.

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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

Editor: Keith Edwards
28960 Jane
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

POLICY ON MEETINGS

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. A member can give his proxy only by giving his membership card to the person 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 members of the Committee 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 for at least 30 days prior to vote at the Convention and no proxies are allowed.

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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

GOVERNMENT MANDATED NOTICES: The United States Postal Service requires that we notify you that the cost of newsletter subscriptions (\$25 national, \$15 Michigan) are included in your membership dues. The Internal Revenue Service requires that we print "contributions are not tax-deductible".

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to:
Libertarian Party of Michigan
11700 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI 48150

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

Applications for membership must indicate concurrence with the following statement by signing below.
"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."
This does not preclude self-defense or resistance to tyranny.

Signature _____



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