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MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

VOLUME IV NUMBER I

APRIL 6, 1976

BALLOT DRIVE EDITION



Minor Parties Threatened

by Greg Clark

Recently the state Senate passed a bill that could make it virtually impossible for minor parties to obtain ballot status. The bill would require a party to receive 0.3% (about 4,500 votes) of the votes cast in a primary election in addition to the 18,000 signatures required on petitions. This bill is now before the House and goes from there to Governor Milliken for approval. We must try to do what we can to prevent the passage of this bill. Below you will find a sample letter and suggestions illustrating methods by which you can communicate feelings about the bill to the people who will be deciding on it. Please make an effort to send letters to your representatives and especially to the Governor soon.

Representative John Doe
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Representative Doe:

As a concerned citizen, I feel that I must write to you in regards to Senate Bill 1323, currently being considered by the House.

I am strongly opposed to this bill. I believe that the people will see it as a move to prevent competition by the minor parties with the two major parties. The fact that the bill is being considered in the middle of an election year smacks of "changing the rules in the middle of the game."

I believe that any person who desires to run for public office should be able to do so, whether the person chooses to identify himself with either a major or minor party. To pass this bill would limit access to the ballot to persons who already have political "connections", and would limit free debate of all the campaign issues.

I hope that you will agree with me and vote to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Richard Row

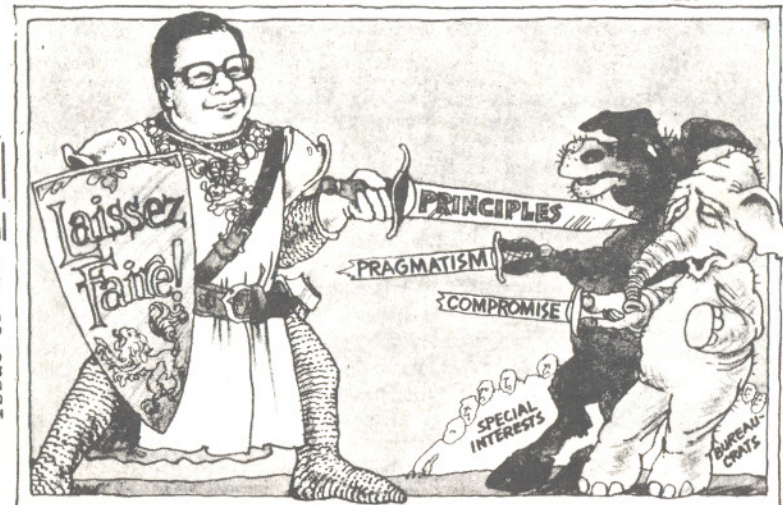
SCC Meeting

An emergency meeting of the State Central Committee was held on March 10, 1976 in Ann Arbor. Bob Meier, National Director of the Libertarian Party drove out from National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. to help out with our petition drive. He gave several ideas for streamlining our petition campaign and discussed the ways the national party would be able to assist.

This discussion was continued at the regularly scheduled meeting held at the home of Judy and Stuart Steinberger on March 14. Bob Meier told the members that we would be receiving aid from Dale Cobb who has proven his organizational talent in several states. Dale will be acting as coordinator and will be staying in Michigan for the duration of our petition drive.

Due to the importance of the petition drive, it was decided to divert all of the funds to that end. After much discussion, the consensus of the group was to keep a small amount of the money for the publication of the newsletter and all the rest of the treasury be available for use of the petition campaign at the discretion of the chairman.

by Joan Weaver



(reprinted from the Jan./Feb.
issue of the LP News)

FROM The CHAIR

The state of the petition drive is excellent but urgent. Enclosed is a special petition drive info-sheet, and two petitions. Take all three sheets out and get to work! If any questions arise please call (313) 665-4343 or 665-0574.

On a daily basis, we are collecting 500 signatures per day. This sounds impressive but, believe it or not, more is needed in order to achieve the required number by April 28th. Both the groups in Lansing/ East Lansing are collecting the majority of signatures. It is the Detroit Metro area that needs help! Contact Bill Krebaum at (313) 963-0520 to volunteer. We need people to petition at Wayne State, Oakland University, U of M Dearborn, Henry Ford Community College, and Lawrence Tech. PAID FULL-time positions are open for anyone in both Detroit Metro and Ann Arbor.

As for outside help, Bob Meier will be returning this week to help organize and raise more needed funds. Dale Cobb is currently organizing around the state and will be doing so until the end of the ballot drive. David Bergland is arriving in Michigan April 14th. He will be traveling around Michigan helping with the ballot drive and trying to boost morale. Consult the calendar to find out when and where he will be in your area. We are also running a small publicity campaign for Dave's visit. Dave may be on WXYZ TV and radio with the help of Barbara Rowe, our WXYZ liason.

Aside from petition drive efforts, this administration has been actively wooing the media. Our successes thus far have been a front page article (with pictures) in the Jackson Citizen Patriot last month and many letters to the editor in the Ann Arbor news and the Kalamazoo gazette. When you see an article about the LP or when a letter of yours is printed PLEASE send us a copy for the LPM files and gain everlasting immortality (send to LPM office).

Lastly, regarding my efforts to get the gay community involved in the LPM, I have a success to report. After being contacted by Jim Greenshields, the large Kalamazoo based gay organization, Lambda, invited us to speak before their group this week. Further, they volunteered to help us with the petition drive and put a favorable mention of us in their publication, Lambda.

Good petitioning and letter writing!

LAISSEZ FAIRE,



James L. Hudler

LIBERTARIAN
PARTY



Students' funding fight

by Bob Garber

The University of Michigan may adopt for the first time since 1954 a voluntary funding system for the student government if a student referendum is defeated in April. This development is the result of five years of hard work by the Ann Arbor Libertarian League on the Michigan campus despite the continued opposition of student government leaders and the University administration.

This election is the end result of a petition drive in September and October which placed a voluntary funding referendum on the November student government election ballot. During the election campaign, the characteristics of the student government were emphasized to the students: that they were taking the money without student consent, were using the money to finance a host of ridiculous projects and organizations, and had a history of theft and fraud, including over \$40,000 allegedly stolen by two former presidents (still unaccounted for). The students, obviously angered by student government, voted by a margin of 62% in favor of voluntary funding. The proposition was in the form of a constitutional amendment supposedly binding on the student government.

However, the University President Robben Fleming and the student government prevented the institution of voluntary funding. Since the regents have final say over the tuition statement, Fleming declared that student votes have no binding effect on the regents, even regarding student government. This was contrary to the University's policy when the fee was changed in the past. Thus the money was collected and given to the student government regardless.

The students were obviously upset and suit was filed against the student government in student court (the Central Student Judiciary, or CSJ). The court ruled, in February, that the government had violated its constitution by collecting the money, but that it did not have to return the money - it simply could not collect anymore after April 1976. This contradictory decision was based on the fact that the student government decided to impeach (illegally) the court the week before the final hearing. Thus hearing an order to return the money would be ignored, the court did not want its authority destroyed at the time it claimed it still retained authority.

Confusing as these events were, they added up to the usual results: that student government and administrative

(continued on page 10)

editorial **On Leadership**

One of the things that attracted me to libertarianism when I first learned about this philosophy was the fact that unlike the radical left and so many other political ideals, this one was for something. Most other parties have limited themselves to strident criticisms of the system, detailing everything about it that is wrong and publishing voluminous empirical studies that amount to muckracking. Well, there's nothing wrong with that but when asked about what it is that, say, a socialist intends to replace things with the answers become very vague to the point of blind faith. As a Marxist friend of mine put it: "there is no such thing as economic principles. The structure of society is determined by people's relationships, and while I don't know how to get to my Utopia (where everything was free for the asking) I know it will come about through historical determinism and man's potential."

Unfortunately, as another friend of mine put it: "the road to hell is paved with good intentions". Libertarians not only had good intentions, they knew how to build roads, too. As The East Whole Earth Catalog put it: "It's damn near the only specific set of radical economic proposals around." Lately though, I haven't noticed that libertarians have been imagining very many alternative proposals. We seem to have lapsed into another set of "agin'ers". I have said this before, but it is not enough to show how the state is immoral, inefficient and dangerous, it is also necessary to show how non-coercive institutions would function. When I talk to people about the movement, which is quite often, they usually aren't interested in the moral or philosophical theory which I lay upon them first. They might concede that I am right but then they ask questions like: "without taxes how would government function?" "what would happen to the poor?" "what about people who would refuse to pay someone to haul away their garbage or were too poor to pay for it?" "what about atomic power, the rights of children, or ecology and waste?" Now it is fairly easy to answer these questions in a general way because libertarians have made some general proposals like voluntary funding, lotteries, subscriptions and use fees, and contract enforcement fees as tax alternatives, but these ideas need to be developed more fully and presented to the public along with our criticisms and appeals to freedom.

Most libertarians know something about some aspect of life that the state is involved in (how can you avoid it!) so why can't lawyers think up the outline of a free legal system? Why can't businessmen think up alternatives to regulatory agencies and consumer groups? More important, why don't we get together with our fellow workers and found alternative institutions? If the state interferes then we have a real cause for rebellion among other people. Why can't we demonstrate the sincerity of our beliefs by acting on them? Would it be so hard to hold a fund raising rally for some charity as a gesture of goodwill (and publicity) instead of glibly asserting that the sick and unfortunate would be helped by whomever wanted to do so? Perhaps this is altruistic and not our function, but it would be highly effective. There is a real difference between leading people and telling them where to go. Let's be leaders before they tell us where to go! by Gerry Wolke

end the \$52,000 rip-off

see PAGE 5.

Coming Events

- April 11- SCC meeting. 2pm in the Michigan Union, Ann Arbor. All LPM members are invited to attend.
- April 11- AALL Tape lecture series. Dr. Nathaniel Branden, "Does God Exist?" All Ann Arbor Libertarian League tape lectures meet at 3PM on 3rd floor of Michigan League.
- April 11- Illinois Libertarian Party- "Tax Protest Seminar" Chicago, Bismarck Hotel. Cost \$35.00. Call LPM at 1-313-665-4343.
- April 12- Animal Farm and The Incredible Bread Machine movies shown by The Libertarian Alternative at Michigan State University. For time and place call Mike Stein at 1-517-351-2249.
- April 13- Same movies but this time shown by AALL at 8pm in Michigan Union, University of Michigan central campus.
- April 13- Wayne Libertarian League will play a Dr. Branden Objectivist tape in Rm 678 of the Student Center Building, Wayne State University from 7pm to 9pm. (Every Tuesday thereafter).
- April 14- LP Vice-Presidential Candidate David Bergland arrives in Michigan. Speech on MSU campus, East Lansing. Call Mike Stein at number above.
- April 15- Washtenaw county LP dinner meeting with David Bergland at the Cottage Inn restaurant on William St. across from Tower Plaza at 6pm.
- April 15- David Bergland will give speech on UofM campus, Ann Arbor at 8pm. Michigan Union. Kuenzel Room.
- April 16- Metro Detroit Meeting with David Bergland at the Bonanza Steak House (11 mile and Greenfield). 6:30pm.
- April 17-28- Spending every free hour and minute collecting signatures. It's all up to you!
- April 28- ALL- that means every signature you have, should be turned in to the LPM office at 818 S. Forest, Ann Arbor, Mi 48104 by this date.

Campus Groups Active

by James L. Hudler

"The Libertarian phoenix is rising from its own ashes" was the battle cry of the Society of Individual Liberty back in the late 60's and early 70's. Now the libertarians in Michigan can boast the same with the establishment of campus libertarian organizations on the three major campuses in Michigan.

At the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Libertarian League, Michigan's oldest and largest libertarian campus organization, terrorizes all members of the M.A.C. (Mystic-Altruist-Collectivist) axis on campus. The League has carried on a five year battle against the oppressive student government at the U of M. This year one of their goals, the destruction of student government is almost in sight (see the article by Bob Garber). Other activities include taped lectures, live speeches, and campus political work for the libertarian party. For more information contact the Ann Arbor Libertarian League, 1111 Nielsen Court. Number 3, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 or call the chairman, James Hudler, at 665-4343.

The recently organized Wayne State Libertarian League is being directed by Ben Steinhart. Their activities thus far have been to play the objectivist tapes on the Wayne campus. They may be reached by writing Wayne State Libertarian League, box 22 Detroit, Michigan 48202.

The Libertarian Alternative is the rising phoenix on the Michigan State University campus. So far activities have been few, but their leader, Mike Stein said that the group will become more active this current term. You can contact them by writing Mike Stein, 745 Burcham Dr. #49, East Lansing, Mi. 48823.

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Michigan Libertarian

The Michigan Libertarian is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Michigan Libertarian Party. Subscription rates are \$3.00 annually for 12 issues.

All letters to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise requested by the author.

The calendar of events is a service to subscribers. Entries will be published upon receipt.

The Michigan Libertarian welcomes all contributions of interest to Libertarians:

- Description of newsworthy events: just the facts, please; just the facts!
- Political cartoons: black and white on 3" x 3" white board.
- County bylines: what's happening in your county.
- Special features: poetry, commentary, etc.

Space is limited. To improve chances for publication make all contributions as short as possible.

DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS THE THIRD WEEK OF EACH MONTH.

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continued from page 5

leaders would do their utmost to keep the taxing power in tact. After all, according to Fleming, "If the student government didn't do their jobs, who would?"

Nevertheless, the pressure by the students mounted and is continuing to mount on the administration. At the March Regent's meeting the AALL organized speeches attacking university hypocrisy and demanding the implementation of voluntary funding. Finally, Fleming announced that he would recommend to the Regents that voluntary funding be adopted in September 1976 if the current election proposal to reinstate mandatory funding fails. Thus, although it appears that voluntary funding requires two victories to pass, the end of the long battle may be in sight. If you are a University of Michigan student, be sure to vote April 6, 7, and 8. If not, write a letter to President Fleming or the Regents of the University. This may seem unimportant compared to "real" politics, but there is an important message involved: the "will of the people" only counts when one is acquiring power, but when the "people" desire to take it back, it requires a long hard battle.

Conference: Philosophers of the American Revolution

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2. ETHAN ALLEN: "Reason as the only oracle of man"---Harry Verysen
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DO...

- 1) Stress these issues...
 - a) The bill will be seen as a move to consolidate power in the two major parties.
 - b) The bill is unfair because it changes the rules in the middle of the election year.
 - c) The bill will limit the number of candidates for office and thus limit debate or free speech.
- 2) Send a copy of your letter, personally addressed, to your State Representative and to the Governor.
- 3) Send a "letter to the editor" to all newspapers in your area on this issue.
- 4) If you hear of any TV or radio editorials supporting this bill, contact Jim Hudler immediately so that arrangements can be made for an editorial response from the LPM.

DO NOT...

- 1) Identify yourself as a member of the LP.
- 2) Copy the enclosed sample letter. Make up your own.
- 3) Make any nasty remarks about the State or politicians in general.

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ERRATUM:

In the "Special Bulletin" insert of the March 10 Michigan Libertarian, Bob Meier stated that Dale Cobb would assist us in petitioning. Several members have correctly pointed out that Dale is not a resident of Michigan and thus ineligible to petition. Dale will continue, however, to help in the statewide organization of the petition drive.

IMPORTANT: (Correction in "Legal Notes" from the March 10 issue of Michigan Libertarian) A new party is defined as one having to collect signatures to get on the next election ballot.