

MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN

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MARCH 1982

CHALLENGE *82 APPROVED

Controversy and cooperation were both in abundance at the last meeting of the 1981-82 LPM State Central Committee in Lansing Feb. 28

District representatives adopted CHALLENGE *82 as the theme of the LPM's 1982 election campaign. Director Steve O'Keefe, who promoted the theme, said, "CHALLENGE *82 symbolizes both our challenge to the corrupt two-party monopoly and our challenging solutions to Michigan's economic and social problems."

Two programs were immediately incorporated under the new theme. CHALLENGE *82 will be the name of the May nominating convention, and a CHALLENGE *82 membership contest will continue through May 1 (see story on page five).

The LPM-SCC then lent their endorsement to a "Nuclear Freeze" petition which, if passed by voters in November, would instruct Congress to conduct bilateral nuclear

disarmament talks with the Soviet Union.

The committee also approved a resolution condemning resumption of draft registration and the pro-



posed prosecution of resisters. The committee also gave support to a rally in opposition to funding of El Salvador sponsored by the Ann Arbor Libertarian League.

The harmony of the meeting ended, however, when Kalamazoo Libertarian Larry Kulp introduced a motion to recind the LPM's partial endorsement of the Jacobs' tax reduction amendment.

The amendment, created by gubenatorial hopeful Dick Jacobs, is in the form of an initiative petition, and was partially endorsed by the

continued on page 4.

CHALLENGING! (left to right) Dick Jacobs, Joe Cote', and Steve Furr discuss the upcoming elections at the last meeting of the 1981-82 LPM—SCC.

MARCH ELECTIONS

Libertarians will appear on the ballot in three special elections this month. B.J. Peters of Royal Oak, Hal Dunn of Warren, and Bob Stepanovich of Lansing have been nominated to bring their parties' programs before the public.

The special elections will be seen as a demonstration of the growth of the party this last year, and an indication of how the party will fare in the general elections this November.

Peters, a 22-year-old architect and a recent graduate of the University of Detroit, is running the most active campaign. He will face two opponents in the March 23 election to replace retiring state senator Bill Huffman in district 16. Although hurt by the loss of his manager, Peters says his campaign

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HAL DUNN: Libertarian Candidate for Macomb County Commission.

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From the Director —

FREEDOM IS A FACT!

Freedom is a fact. It is not a gift, grant, privilege, franchise or right. To be born is to be born free, period. The U.S. Constitution does not grant freedom or the right to be free; it merely acknowledges the freedom that all people have.

"Certainly," you may say, "the people of the world are not all free. What about the Polish people?" Freedom is not lost in Poland today—it is only restrained. The Polish government has restricted the exercise of freedom with martial law, but freedom itself lives on. Freedom can not be taken away, it can only be given away by the consent of the individual.

The myth that the exercise of freedom is guaranteed in the United States dissolves before the reality of the Reagan administration. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the resumption of draft registration and the subsequent prosecution of resisters.

President Reagan, who campaigned against draft registration, now claims that registration is necessary because "we live in a dangerous world." Registration, he says, will reduce the response time of the armed forces in the case of a "national emergency."

The truth is, draft registration has nothing to do with saving time in a "national emergency." Rather, President Reagan wants to measure resistance to the authority of the state, and then put down that resistance before beginning an actual draft.

Of course, Reagan would prefer not to prosecute resisters. He would like young American men simply to accept the authority of the state and give up their freedom. The "national emergency" line implies that freedom is a franchise that can be revoked at will. That is what Mr. Reagan would like us to believe.

The fact is that the youth of America are free. Some may give up their freedom when they comply with registration. Some may comply, but only to better exercise their freedom. Still others will neither comply, nor give up their freedom.

The "grace period" in which young men were supposed to bow down before the power of the state and sign receipts for their lives ended February 28.

When the systematic terrorization of American youth begins, the myth of the free society will disappear. The message here is the same as in Poland: freedom is a license that may be repealed at the will of those who rule. The truth is that freedom, unless given away, lives as long as life itself.

Stephen Patrick O'Keefe LPM Executive Director



Editor: Stephen Patrick O'Keefe Printing: Nick Hamilton Mailing: Brian Wright

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Letters-to-the-editor and other articles submitted for publication should be typewritten and signed. Advertising is available at \$2 per column-inch for camera-ready copy and must be submitted by the 20th day of the month preceding the desired issue.

All correspondence should be sent to: Michigan Libertarian 357 Hollister Building, 106 W. Allegan, Lansing, Mich. 48933.



The Libertarian Party of Michigan is a statewide organization of individuals dedicated to the preservation of individual rights and the advancement of freedom through political action.

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GUEST COLUMN

by LAWRENCE EDWARD KULP

CONSUMERS POWER has been the object of considerable criticism these days over its recent rate hike. And why not? This so-called "private" company does not seem bound by the ordinary rules of the marketplace and, in particular, by the law of supply and demand. Heaven knows what the actual market price of energy is.

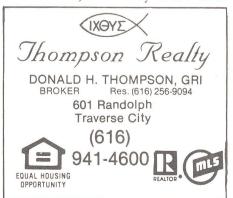
The reason for this is that Consumers Power holds the enviable status of being a government-established monopoly (what we libertarians like to call a "coercive monopoly). Consumers Power simply does not have to compete.

Would-be competitors have been closed out by virtue of the utility's franchise to be the exclusive supplier of gas and electricity in this geographical area. And to us customers, they can say, almost with impunity, "That's our price; take it

Those interested in being the Guest Columnist should submit their articles by the 20th of the month for consideration in the next month's issue.

or leave it," knowing full well that nearly all of us will have to "take it."

THE APOLOGISTS for the utilities are quick to point out that they in fact do not have the power to ride rough-shod over the public as could ordinary monopolies (assuming, first, that these could exist, and second, that they could treat



their customers in such a manner). After all, they are closely regulated by the government, especially in regard to the prices they can charge.

Well, if I have any power of observation at all, I would wager that to the extent that Consumer Power's operations are regulated by the government, they are less safe and less efficient. And to the extent that their prices are regulated, we, the customers, are getting a raw deal.

"they can say 'That's our price; take it or leave it,' knowing full well that nearly all of us will 'take it,'"

Investors will tell you that it is always safe to put your money in utilities. Now, how can they say that with such assurance, aside from looking at history?

The answer is simple, really. Unless there is a major miscalculation or unforeseen circumstance, the government will always allow a utility to set a rate sufficient to reap a "reasonable" profit. I have no doubt that most unregulated, unprotected businessmen would sorely love to operate on a cost-plus basis.

I HAVE YET TO HEAR a convincing argument that we need coercive monopolies. The most used line of reasoning is that some kinds of enterprises serve consumers best if there is only one supplier in the particular marketplace. This is the "natural monopoly" argument. Such monopolies might be possible, but we will never know this unless they are allowed to happen naturally—that is, on the unhampered market.

If a natural monopoly actually evolved on the free market, I would immensely prefer that to a coercive monopoly, because it would have achieved its position by virtue of its superior ability to serve the consumer. Furthermore, as a non-coercive monopoly, it could not rest on

The Libertarian Party of Michigan has an office located at 106 W. Allegan in Downtown Lansing. The office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.

its laurels. Otherwise, it might lose its business to more efficient or innovative competitors, or its customers may turn to substitute products or services.

Another common argument for coercive monopolies has been that the functions they perform are too vital to be left up to self-interested businessmen. My comment to this is that providing shoes, clothing, and shelter are also vital functions. These are provided on highly competative markets, which probably explains our unparalleled abundance of these things. Can you imagine a shoe salesman asking you to conserve—and to not buy any shoes to-day?

FINALLY, I MUST point out that coercive monopolies violate the libertarian prohibition against aggression, the initiation of force.

A person who offers me his labor or the products of his labor is not aggressing. Nor is my accepting that offer. But anyone who forcibly interferes with that transaction is initiating force, and that is precisely what the government does when it grants monopoly privilege.

I give you the example of the U.S. Postal Service as another fine example.

Let's pull the rug out from under

L.E. Kulp is a member of the LPM State Central Committee and a Kalamazoo attorney. This article was taken from a column he writes for the Kalamazoo News,



Post Office Box 1062 441 West Front Street Traverse City, MI 49684 616/946-6246

"Our Business is Making Good Impressions"

Getting The Message Out

Each month the Michigan Libertarian reprints published letters-tothe-editor either written by Libertarians or with Libertarian content.

In response to Robert V. Gray's letter Feb. 2, I offer another alternative to his socialist solutions to our "raging fascist government." I offer the free market system. Not the so-called free market offered by Reaganomics, but a clear-cut separation of economy and state.

Libertarians favor the unhampered market for two separate but related reasons. First, we are deeply suspicious of power. Historically, every time business and government have "worked together," the result has been the creation of a privileged class of specially favored businessmen who are both protected from competition and spared the necessity of earning their profits by serving the consumer.

Second, Libertarians support a laissez-faire market system because it has proved far and away the best method of getting the most out of what we have; as economists would say, it is the most efficient way of allocating our resources. It is with the competitive sector and with the consumers that we Libertarians align ourselves, as we demand an end to privileges, inefficiencies and exploitation which we now have. Libertarians look forward to the day when all businessmen operate solely in the competitive sector and none remain in the privileged protected sector.

> Glenn Mensching Washtenaw County LP Ann Arbor, Michigan The Ann Arbor News

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GERALD POTTS

MEMBER: National Association of Accountants

Your Jan. 10 editorial, "The Inevitability of the Draft," stated the Pentagon's manpower requirements cannot be met by an all-volunteer army, and that the draft is therefore both inevitable and desirable. But the statement that this is good is morally indefensible.

You make the assumption that morality flows from the desires of those in power. The Pentagon's particular desires do not in any way make the draft desirable public policy.

You state: "Friends and foes will never be entirely sure of America's determination until military service is once again a cumpulsory obligation."

In a way, that statement is true. But having to resort to threats of imprisonment to get enough Americans to carry out the administration's desires does send a message of what America really wants.

Michael Palonus Treasurer, Wayne County LP Detroit, Michigan The Detroit News

CHALLENGE *82 (con't. from 1)

SCC at its September meeting.

Kulp and others took exception to the language in the petition protecting funding for education, and were concerned that the LPM's partial endorsement would not prevent confusing the Jacobs amendment for an actual LPM proposal.

Jacobs argued that the language protecting state funding for education was "necessary to prevent a tax increase or a tax shift."

The Kulp proposal was narrowly defeated, but a compromise proposal by Brian Wright passed. The SCC recinded endorsement, while still going on record as supporting the tax cutting measures of the petition.

The February meeting was the last for the current SCC. The district representatives and executive committee deserve the thanks of the entire membership for their courage and their patience over the last year!

A new Central Committee will be elected at the state convention. The committee is composed of two representatives for each congressional district and five at-large representatives. The executive committee consists of the chair, vicechair, secretary and treasurer.

The committee sets policy for the party. Anyone wishing to sit on the committee for 1982-83 should contact LPM Headquarters.

Please Check: Combined Natl. & LPM\$20.00 LPM Membership Only\$15.00 Student Membership\$5.00	Name
All memberships include newsletter. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party of Michigan 106 W. Allegan St., Suite 357 Lansing, Michigan 48933 Phone: (517) 372-5939	County Cong. Dist □ Indicate if address is new
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JOIN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Challenge *82 Membership Contest

How would you like to stock your local or county LP group with enough literature to last the whole year? That's the prize being offered in the CHALLENGE *82 membership contest.

The local or county group that brings in the most new members to the party before May 7 will win \$100 worth of quality literature.

And true to the Libertarian spirit, there's something for the individual, too. The person who recruits the most new members will receive a gold Clark/Koch coin.

The gold coin, which weighs onetenth of an ounce, was donated by LPM Director Steve O'Keefe.

"I donated the coin because I believe it symbolizes the greatest effort on behalf of an individual to build the membership of the LP," O'Keefe said, referring to the campaign waged by Ed Clark.

The prizes will be awarded at the LPM convention in May. The literature will be presented to the county chair or group leader. The coin

will go to the individual whose name appears most often on the "recruited by" blank at the bottom of the membership forms.

The contest will include all members who joined the LP since January 1, and excludes all renewals. There will also be prizes for runner-ups.

To aid groups in attracting new members, Membership committee chair Keith Bilby has organized a a traveling recruitment program for state.

Libertarians Bilby, Sheryl Loux and Fred Dechow will make a presentation on the LP history, beliefs and goals wherever invited. Activists in areas where there currently are no organized LP groups should take advantage of the generous offer of services made by these three freedom fighters.

To invite the membership team for an LP presentation in your area, contact Keith Bilby (313)420-0179. Membership forms can be obtained from your county chair, local leader, or LPM Headquarters.

ELECTIONS (con't from page 1)

will come out strong near the end. "We've got a good brochure," the candidate said, "which we plan to distribute over the district as thoroughly as possible in the last few weeks of the campaign."

Peters has based his campaign on tax reduction and repeal of regulatory legislation. "Even a slight tax reduction may be the margin of survival for many Michigan businesses," he soid.

Hal Dunn, a 50-year-old design engineer and father of five, will face two opponents in his race for Macomb County Commissioner. The election to replace the late Robert VerKuilen will be held March 15.

The major issue in the campaign is property tax reform, as Dunn sees it. The candidate is particularly upset about the average 8½ percent increase in tax assessments expected this year. "Everybody knows real estate values have gone down. It's ridiculous that taxes are rising," he said.

Virginia Cropsey, Dunn's campaign manager, says that volunteers will cover the entire district with a literature distribution drive. Dunn has printed 8000 brochures, and will conclude the campaign with a neighborhood walk-around on Saturday, March 6.

In Lansing, Libertarian agitator Bob Stepanovich will try to fill the vacancy on the Ingham County Commission.

Bob is a self-employed real estate broker and former partner with his brother Dennis in Stepanovich Brothers Grocery. At age 39, he has begun studies at Cooley Law School in Lansing.

Bob will not be running an active campaign, due to his already busy schedule. "I'm in this thing to help the party," he said. "Maybe I can stir things up a little and help the party get ready for November."

Cote Runs for Trustee

Oakland County Libertarian Party chair A. Joseph Cote' will seek the office of Trustee of the Village of Bingham Farms in an election to be held March 8.

Cote' will try to fill one of the three positions up for election. It is likely that he will face three incumbents.

The president and six trustees of the village determine the millage for property tax assessments, which Cote' says he wants reduced.

The local board also controls zoning regulations in the village. "You need their approval just to change the color of your house," complains Cote'.

Cote' is no new-comer to politics or zoning. Appointed to the Birmingham Board of Zoning Ap-

peals in 1978, he "always voted in favor of exemption" until he left the board in 1981. In 1980, he ran for the Birmingham City Commission.

A member of the party since 1979, Joe has been a real activist! He is a member of the LPM-SCC, founder and chair of the Oakland Co. LP, founder of the Macomb Co. LP, and winner of the 1981 membership contest.

President of Allied Stamping Corporation, Cote', 55, received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Married, with four children, Joe served in the Navy for 26 years, including five years of active duty. Joe serves on the board of the Birmingham Optomists, and is a member of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

'82 CANDIDATES UNITE!

Are you considering running for office in the 1982 elections? If you are, then the Candidates committee wants to help you!

On March 28, the committee will hold a meeting to discuss common

COMMITTEE REPORTS

resource development for Libertarian candidates. Anyone considering running for office will gain from this meeting.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hollister Building, 106 W. Allegan in Downtown Lansing across from the Capitol.

Because the LPM is expecting up to 100 candidates for office in the coming elections, combining resources will not only be valuable, it will be essential.

Participants will discuss such topics as standardized brochures, raising money for campaigns, common media relations, coordinated literature distribution drives, and the formation of a candidate speakers bureau.

Candidates Committee chair Sheryl Loux says, "Everyone who's thinking of running for office should come, regardless of reapportionment problems. Serious candidates will want to get their campaigns organized as soon as possible."

The Candidates meeting will replace the March State Central Committee meeting, as the two months before the convention will be used for party building activities.

Those who plan to attend the meeting should contact either the Lansing office or Sheryl Loux before March 28. The phone numbers are listed in the Directory.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

CHALLENGE *82, the nominating convention of the Libertarian Party of Michigan, is shaping up to be "the biggest and best convention in our history," says convention director Brian Wright.

And Wright is certainly right! Five Libertarian movers-and-shakers will likely attend. National LP Vice Chair Sheldon Richman will be the banquet speaker, and will talk on the unemployment problem.

Michigan "favorite sons" Eric O'Keefe, Director of the National LP, and Kathleen Jacob, Director of Students for a Libertarian Society will also make presentations.

Bruce Evoy, Founder of the LP of Canada and Director of Libertarian International, will address the convention, and Leslie Graves Key, LP Finance Chair and National Committee representative for Michigan and Wisconsin, will lead a workshop on Sunday, May 9.

The convention committee is looking for helpers to work at the convention in exchange for admission benefits. In particular, anyone who can not afford to attend the convention will be given the opportunity to earn their way.

The committee especially needs help in the areas of press relations and photography. For more information, contact Brian Wright or the LPM office. Both numbers appear in the Directory on page seven.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a CHALLENGE *82 membership contest, with awards of \$100 of literature to the winning county or local group, and a Clark/Koch gold coin to the winning individual. See the story on page five for details.

The committee has also established a traveling introduction to the Libertarian Party. Featuring speakers Fred Dechow, Sheryl Loux and Keith Bilby, the program includes a short presentation on the party, a film about the LP, and a question and answer session.

The traveling team is willing to go anywhere in Michigan to speak, given enough notice. The group will help organize new groups where none currently exist, or will speak to established organizations.

To invite the traveling program to your area, contact Membership chair Keith Bilby or the Lansing office. Both numbers are in the directory on page seven.

AVAILABLE FROM LPM HEADQUARTERS

"Vote Libertarian" License Plates	each
"Vote Libertarian" buttons	each
"Legalize Freedom/Vote Libertarian" bumper stickers \$1.25	each
A New Beginning, by Ed Clark	each
New Question and Answer brochures	each [.]
New LNC Issue Papers	each
LPM Membership brochures	each
"Miss Liberty" gold and black lapel pins\$2	each

Please make checks payable to: Libertarian Party of Michigan, 106 W. Allegan St., Suite 357, Lansing, MI. 48933 (517) 372-5939

CALENDAR

THE LPM CANDIDATES COM-MITTEE will hold a resource development session for anyone considering running for office in 1982. The session will be held Sunday, March 28, at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Hollister Bldg., 106 W. Allegan in Lansing. If you would like to attend, please contact Sheryl Loux or the LPM office.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONSTITUTIONAL RALLY sponsored by the United Autoworkers Opposing Contract Concessions will be held Friday, April 9, at the U. of M. Dearborn Fieldhouse. Speakers may include Tupper Faussy and Irwin Schiff. Tickets are \$3 and are available at all CTC outlets. For more information, contact Dean Hazel at (313)332-8888.

THE ANN ARBOR LIBERTARIAN LEAGUE meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Don Remboski (313)434-8129.

THE MACOMB COUNTY LIBER-TARIAN PARTY meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Harvest Table Restaurant, Van Dyke and 15 Mile Rd. in Warren. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Virginia Cropsey.

THE KALAMAZOO AREA LIBER-TARIANS meet every Monday in Room 205 of the Student Union Bldg., Western Michigan University. Discussion group format features "Principles of Objectivism" tapes by Nathaniel Brandon (available to other groups from KAL) and, once a month, educational pamphlets from the Society for Individual Liberty (SIL). For more information, contact Sheryl Loux.

THE MIDLAND AREA LIBER-TARIANS meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the home of Fred Dechow. The Principles of Liberty course using the SLS Discussion Guide will be featured. For more information, contact Fred Dechow.

THE METRO DETROIT LIBER-TARIANS meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Howard Johnson's Restaurant at 10 Mile Rd. and Northwestern in Southfield. Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Rose Wright.

THE INGHAM COUNTY LIBER-TARIAN PARTY meets every third Thursday of the month. For details as to time, place, and guest speaker, contact Chair Mike Stein.

THE WAYNE COUNTY LIBER-TARIAN PARTY will meet Monday, April 5, at 7:45 p.m. at Christoff's Public House, 13736 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn. For more information, contact Ben Bachrach.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY LIBER-TARIAN PARTY meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Back Alley Restaurant at the Birmingham Bowl, located at Hunter and Lincoln in Birmingham. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Joe Cote'.

Meetings and events of LP organizations, or groups of interest to Libertarians, will be announced free of charge. Send your message to: MICHIGAN LIBERTARIAN, 357 Hollister Bldg., 106 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI. 48933. Announcement of activities not specifically sponsored by the LP does not necessarily imply LPM endorsement.

DIRECTORY-

 Rose Wright-Metro Detroit LP-Birmingham-(313)644-1816 Joe Cote'- Oakland Co. LP- Birmingham- (313)646-9890 Virginia Cropsey- Macomb Co. LP- Sterling Hts.- (313) 977-6628

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NEWS BRIEFS

AFTERWORLD PARASITES -Hundreds of dead bureaucrats have continued to receive Civil Service pensions, according to the federal Office of Personnel Management.

830 former government employees listed as dead by the Social Service administration have received an average of more than \$13,000 from Civil Service.

One bureaucrat has been sent checks totaling \$81,952 since his death in 1965 - 17 years ago!

The payments were uncovered by Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., who said the reasons for the payments ranged from "obvious fraud to simple laziness." It is estimated that total payments to the deceased come to \$5 million, so far.

Aspin, a frequent critic of the Pentagon, has tried to uncover similar payments to military retirees who have died. "The military still hasn't done anything," Aspin said.

MICHIGAN'S RESOURCES AT-TRACTING MIGRANTS - While businesses leave the state by the dozens due to high taxes, individuals are flocking to Michigan as a result of the state's higher than average welfare benefits.

More than sixteen percent of the welfare recipients in Michigan have lived in the state for less than one vear. It is estimated that at least a quarter of that number moved just because of the benefits.

According to the study released by the Department of Social Services, nearly a third of recipients in Michigan's southern counties are "welfare migrants."

The report said benefits averaged \$394 a month to families and \$173 a month to jobless adults. The largest number of such migrants came from Illinois, Ohio, Florida and Alabama.

HAIRBRAINS PROHIBIT TRANS-PLANTS - The Idaho state legislature voted 61-6 to ban hair transplants that use synthetic fibers or hair from another human.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Rich Orme of St. Anthony, himself completely bald.

The legislature did not specify which, if any, materials could be used for the implants.