

The Jersey Libertarian

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CHALLENGING THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM

One is frequently hearing the comment that the two major parties don't really offer the American voters a choice. And, as this fact becomes increasingly apparent, fewer and fewer Americans are participating in the election process, saying, in effect, "None of the above."

While most citizens realize the futility of choosing between two parties whose sole obsession is to get votes, few ask the obvious question: "Why, in the most intellectually and economically advanced country in the world, do the citizens have to select their leaders from such a pathetic array of devious political opportunists?"

The answer to this question can be found in the various discriminatory election campaign laws, including the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). This law, ostensibly intended to maintain fair elections, is actually designed specifically to inhibit the growth of third parties. Since it's clear that any REAL change in American politics can only come from these minor parties, voters interested in a three-party system should be aware of the obstacles faced by the Libertarian Party, which is the largest and fastest growing minor party and the only threat to the two major parties.

1. Upon their respective nominations, the Democratic and the Republicans parties will each receive \$25 million of federal (our) money. This \$25 million is only available to these two parties.
2. Facing an initial disadvantage of \$50 million to zero, Libertarian campaign financing is further hindered by a \$5000 per person limit on contributions.
3. While both the Democratic and the Republican parties have access to the very favorable Non-profit Organization mailing rates (3.1¢ per item) the Libertarian Party has been denied recognition as a non-profit organization and, hence, access to these rates. This is an extremely devastating blow to its attempts to reach the voters through direct mailings.
3. While the major party candidates' names appear automatically on the ballots of each state, Libertarians face a wide variety of restrictive requirements just to get their candidate's name on the ballot for the voters' consideration! These requirements, which must be satisfied on a state-by-state basis, consist primarily of complex petitioning procedures wherein the Libertarian Party must gather an unreasonable number of signatures subject to arbitrary, and deliberately confusing restrictions.
5. To satisfy Obstacle #4, the Libertarian Party has been compelled to collect the necessary signatures on a petition (designed by the State Department) which states that the undersigned "pledge to support and vote for" the named candidate. This pledge is in clear violation of the principle of the secret ballot and means, in effect, that anyone who chooses to support a minor candidate must submit their name and address to the State Department "for its files" - an interesting law to say the least.

(continued on page two)

CHALLENGING THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM continued

Perhaps it is a coincidence that these laws provide an overwhelming advantage to those who passed them. Perhaps the lawmakers responsible had no idea that these laws would virtually eliminate all potential challengers to their lucrative empires. Perhaps. In any case, it is a tribute to the ideas of Libertarianism that, in spite of these obstacles, the movement has continued to accelerate, with Ed Clark's ballot status expected in all fifty states.

NJLP MEETINGS SCHEDULE

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
July	27 Sun.	2 PM	Bob Shapiro's Home
August	17 Sun.	2 PM	General Meeting: Ray Blanco's Home
September	13 Sat.	2 PM	Jeanne Macron's Home
October	19 Sun.	2 PM	General Meeting: TBA
November	4 Tues.	7 PM	ELECTION NIGHT CELEBRATION At Ray Blanco's Home Watch National LP Results & Enjoy!

EASTCOAST COLLEGE CONVENTION

A convention of New York Area College Libertarians will be held on Friday, July 18, from 6 PM to 9 PM at the TOP OF THE PARK on the fifth floor of New York University's Loeb Student Center (566 La Guardia Place on the corner of Washington Square South) in Manhattan. Barry Siegel, the NJLP College Liaison Committee Chair, shall be representing the NJLP. If you would like to attend or want more information, call Barry at (201) 743-8686.

Jersey Libertarian

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ACTIONLINE

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SUSSKIND TV SHOW IGNORES CLARK

The Sunday late-night television show hosted by David Susskind aired on May 19 which was entitled "How Did It Happen --- Carter Vs. Reagan " overlooked the candidacy of Libertarian Party candidate Ed Clark. The only alternatives mentioned were John Anderson and Barry Commoner. On May 20, Ray Blanco (NJLP State Chair) spoke with Mr. Susskind's office and was informed that they "had not heard about Mr. Clark." We suggest that every libertarian call and write to the Susskind show expressing our dismay that the show failed to report honestly about alternatives. Although the show will be on hiatus during the summer, a steady stream of calls and letters throughout the summer should insure coverage in the fall. Postcards are cheaper and get the message across faster.

Call: (212) 841-4211 Ask for Joan Kelly or David Susskind.

Send Postcards to: The David Susskind TV Show
4040 Time & Life Building
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10020

Similar calls and postcards should be sent to EVERY newspaper, radio and television program that fails to cover the Libertarian candidates. Come on, let's put the pressure on !

STATUE OF LIBERTY IS LP SYMBOL

Only one National Committee member opposed the passage of the Statue of Liberty as the National Libertarian Party Symbol during the May 3-4 Nat Com meeting. As you are aware, the NJLP has been using the symbol ever since it was proposed.

EMERGENCY MEETING TO STOP DRAFT REGISTRATION

In Washington D.C., on May 31, the Committee Against Registration and Draft (CARD) is calling an emergency meeting for anti-draft activists to learn the skills necessary should registration become a reality. Civil disobedience will be a necessary act should registration pass the Senate. The meeting is expected to last from 9:30 AM to 9 PM. The place is the Church of Reformation 222 East Capitol Street in Washington DC (two blocks from the Capitol building). Libertarians are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Jay Hilgartner at (202) 333 - 8209.

CLARK campaign news

The Clark campaign is heading for trouble unless Libertarians get off their respective chairs and move into high gear. Although we have ballot status in such difficult states as Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Massachusetts, the deadlines for Georgia, Texas, and Maryland are quickly approaching and the signature counts are very low. Libertarians better not blow it in 1980! The National office is prepared to pay petitioners. The most important aspect of Campaign 80 is petitioning for ballot status. We would like to see a dozen NJLP members petitioning in other states this summer. Take a week from your vacation time and go petitioning. It's a great opportunity to safeguard our freedom.

JERSEY CLARK CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOU!

Doug Mailley, the NJ Clark for President chair, is urging all NJLP members to volunteer for important duties during the upcoming Presidential campaign. All interested parties should call Doug at (201) 661-4807. Best days to reach him are Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

PETITIONERS NEEDED IN PENNSYLVANIA

The LP of Pennsylvania needs 65,000 signatures to put Clark/Koch on the Penn. ballot, as well as congressional candidates. Come alone or get together a carload of your libertarian friends. Do not delay. Drop a line indicating your interest to: Dave Walter, LPP Chairman, 894 Pine Road, Warminster, PA 18974, or call (215) 672-3892.

RANDOLPH SETS OFF ALASKA TAX-CUT FEVER

"The maverick legislator who has everyone dancing to his tune," as the Anchorage (Alaska) Times describes Libertarian legislator Dick Randolph, submitted 21,000 signatures in January to qualify Alaska Libertarians' income tax initiative for the November 1980 ballot.

Filing of the initiative, which would virtually repeal Alaska's personal income tax, immediately set off a wave of new proposals to outdo the initiative itself, dominating the opening sessions of the 1980 Legislature. Senate Democrats prefiled a trio of bills to repeal personal income taxes, reduce corporate income taxes, and reduce the maximum property tax rate municipalities may levy. The 14-member House Republican caucus introduced a bill to repeal the personal income tax and "suspend" virtually all other taxes except oil and gas severance taxes. Suspension implies that if state revenues dipped below a certain level the taxes would be revived again after six months' notice.

However, Libertarian Randolph is staying ahead in the race to cut taxes in Alaska, a race he started. Shortly after filing the initiative, he introduced HB 554 to repeal both the state personal income tax and the corporate income tax. Under Randolph's bill personal income taxes would be repealed retroactive to January 1, 1979, refunding \$150 million to Alaska's 100,000 taxpayers. Repeal of corporate income taxes would take effect June 30 and would cut state revenues an additional \$586 million over the next fiscal year.

THOUGHTS ON THE BOYCOTT

President Carter's request that American athletes boycott the Olympic games in Moscow demonstrates again the gulf that exists between the aspiration of the individual and of the state to which he belongs. There is implicit in it the idea that political considerations must pervade every aspect of human affairs, that the good of the state is forever paramount to the good of its citizens, and that no neutral, common ground need be preserved from the tumult of international affairs. Yet the President says he supports the Olympic movement.

In contrast, Baron Pierre de Coubertin envisioned the Olympics as an opportunity for the world's athletes to participate in a festival of sport that would be free from the strife and war that afflict nations. His support for a revival of the ancient Olympics was in part patriotic - he hoped to instill a sense of pride and national purpose in the youth of France through sports - but he also sought to foster an appreciation of humanity that transcended national boundaries, and thus benefit the cause of world peace.

Over the years, of course, Baron de Coubertin's conception of the modern Olympiad has been somewhat tarnished. All of its celebrations have been adorned with such trappings of international competition as national teams and flags and anthems, and some nations have indeed used their participation as an instrument of their foreign policy. Peace, unfortunately, has been the commodity in shortest supply during the twentieth century. Nevertheless, the Olympic movement has remained essentially apolitical, a common ground on which civilized men might meet in an endeavor that need only incidentally concern their countries. The Olympics belong to the athletes of the world, not to any particular host city or nation.

It is grotesque that this Olympiad should be held in the capital of a nation the domestic policies of which seem designed to make liberty the province of only the most adventurous of its citizens, and which is so rapacious that it is even now trampling upon a neighboring people. This may be an excellent reason for holding future Olympics at a permanent, neutral site. But if the games are to be preserved at all, an alternative must be found to the proposed boycott. American athletes might, for example, participate without flag or other national insignia. Such a gesture would demonstrate that the Olympics are not to be a forum for international relations, that the competitions take place between individual athletes and not between the countries to which they happen to belong.

The Carter administration, however, would insist upon a boycott. Confronted once more with the consequences of a bankrupt foreign policy, it thinks it not only proper but necessary to use a gathering of individuals traditionally outside international politics as an instrument of foreign policy. It seems little concerned that an American boycott must result in the extinction of the modern Olympiad.

Surely, in a world where people are so often set at each other's throats, the very spectacle of the Olympics, of thousands of men and women from every race, culture, religion, and political system on earth meeting in peaceful, even friendly, athletic competition, should be enough to save it from being rashly thrown away. If not, then a new dark age beckons. And if men still live then, their lives will likely be taken up with more elemental concerns than the running of a dash or the throwing of a discus.

- Daniel Mercer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Record:

Marge Roukema's letter of May 9 in which she attacked Congressman Andy Maguire calls for a reply. While her characterization of him as a big spender is certainly backed up by a recent National Taxpayers Union congressional rating, her own proposals are only mildly less irresponsible.

The best Mrs. Roukema can do is to call for "no new taxes." But a government study which she herself cited in the 1978 campaign said that inflation and the progressive nature of the income tax rates would raise taxes 89 percent over five years with "no new taxes."

Andy Maguire makes no bones about advocating a greater role for government in every area, but Mrs. Roukema's try at sounding like a Libertarian by calling for "reduced government spending" is ludicrous.

In the 1978 campaign, I challenged her to support a \$500 billion constitutional limit on the federal government, and she refused. While I still support a \$500-billion limit, I challenge her now to support a \$1-trillion limit — or even a \$2-trillion limit.

In her support of a "balanced budget," Mrs. Roukema is really (to use her own phrase) "pulling a Jerry Brown"; Libertarians have been pushing this idea since the Libertarian Party was formed in 1971. And her reference to Jerry Brown and Proposition 13 is truly ironic in that the only California gubernatorial candidate to support Proposition 13 before it passed is this year's Libertarian presidential candidate, Ed Clark.

Regarding national defense, it's true that Andy Maguire voted no on virtually every military bill. However, Mrs. Roukema appears to be not so much interested in national defense as she is with projecting American military influence throughout the world — even right up to

the borders of a rival superpower.

Hasn't she learned anything from Vietnam? Doesn't she care that the role of world policeman that she desires for the United States breeds confrontation while the threat of nuclear war is ever-present?

As for playing "catchup" with national defense, Mrs. Roukema appears to have no concept of how much is enough. The Pentagon estimates that 400 equivalent megatons (EMT) of deliverable nuclear weapons are sufficient for "minimal assured destruction" (MAD) of either the United States or Russia. Other estimates for MAD run as low as 100 EMT. While the Russians have several times the 400 EMT aimed at us, the United States has over 6,500 EMT (over 16 times the MAD level) aimed at Russia. How far does Mrs. Roukema want to carry this MADness?

As a Libertarian, I say let's put the defense back in the Defense Department. Whereas 60 percent of the current military budget goes to protect other countries, I propose to let countries like Japan and West Germany pay for their own defense.

With the money we save by letting other countries' defense costs rest where they belong we should (1) offer higher salaries to armed forces personnel (to attract high quality people and to lay the

draft to rest once and for all); (2) concentrate on high technology defense (real defense) systems; and (3) give massive tax cuts to the people who earned all that money in the first place (which will greatly stimulate real growth in the economy).

These ideas, and others I'll detail as the campaign progresses, will show the voters that they no longer have to choose between the lesser of two evils. Now there is the Libertarian alternative.

ROBERT SHAPIRO

Teaneck
Candidate for Congress
7th District

Editor, The Record:

The Record's May 5 editorial, "Hoover's ghost," points out what's wrong with the two-party system. The two major parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, have shown over the years that they both can be corrupt, naive, inept, ignorant, and/or hypocritical.

Ronald Reagan supposedly preaches fiscal restraint, yet during his two terms as governor taxes and state spending doubled. Why should we expect different results nationally if Reagan were to become president?

For The Record to say, "the Democrats are for helping the little guy" proves that the Democrats are either inept or hypocrites. The poor and middle class in this country are getting poorer. Maybe the Democrats "are for helping the little guy to the poorhouse."

If you feel you've been betrayed by the major two parties, there is an alternative: the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party, the party of principle, will continue to challenge the two-party system while defending the rights of the individual.

The major two parties will continue to falter, to paraphrase Henry Thoreau, "until they recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from whom their own power and authority are derived, and treat him accordingly."

KEN MILLER
Teaneck

DEAR EDITOR:

A most critical and compelling need facing this country is bringing the federal budget in balance.

- It is well established that deficit spending has been the major factor accounting for the incessant and debilitating inflationary spiral.

- When the government can spend more than it earns, we know that it is ultimately the rest of us who pay for it in terms of decreased purchasing power of the dollar. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

- The constant depreciation of the dollar by an imbalanced federal government budget financed largely by the use of mirrors is a fraud by the government on all of us: Workers are cheated of their pay, borrowers are crowded out, tax brackets creep upward, interest rates soar, mortgages become unavailable, real incomes decline, the national debt goes up, minority joblessness increases, civil unrest occurs, etc.

But there is a way to bring the federal budget in balance. An amendment to the Constitution requiring that expenditures not exceed income except in case of national emergency would remove from congressional authority the power to incur a deficit. The purpose of the constitutional approach would be to secure a fundamental prohibition not easily repealed by either the will or whim of our federal lawmakers.

Such an amendment proposal in fact has already obtained the support of 30 states out of 34 required to call a constitutional convention if Congress itself fails to propose the amendment or call the convention.

That 90 per cent of the 34 states have approved this proposed amendment is a significant indication of a powerful groundswell from the citizenry requiring fiscal responsibility from our federal government. The amendment process also can be viewed as a referendum on the policy of government.

New Jersey is not yet among the 30 states having approved a resolution calling for a constitutional convention.

Calvin C. Beatty,
Short Hills

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The Jersey Libertarian is very pleased to announce "The Letters to the Editor Contest," an exciting plan to promote Libertarian ideas, inspired and generously sponsored by NJLP member Ken Miller. Ken is offering \$10, payable in federal reserve notes, to the person who succeeds in getting published the most letters to the editor each month, starting in July. At the end of six months, the person who has won the most prize money shall receive a \$250 note, payable in federal reserve notes. Prize money will be split in case of tie.

Original reprints of the letters must be sent to the Jersey Libertarian along with the name and date of the newspaper each letter was printed in. Only letters written to non-libertarian newspapers written from a libertarian viewpoint are valid. Contest ends in December. The Jersey Libertarian will reprint as many of the published letters as possible, and the names of all entrants and the winner will be listed each month.

"THAT GOVERNMENT IS BEST WHICH GOVERNS LEAST"
THOMAS JEFFERSON

Libertarians of Bergen County
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