

# New Jersey Libertarian



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

NJLP members got appointed to, and promoted in, public office.

Page 2

## SABRIN CAMPAIGN

With five days left before the September 1 deadline, the Sabrin for Governor Campaign had raised over \$150,000.

## BOB GRANT VOTING FOR MURRAY SABRIN!

Bob Grant frequently states his intention to vote for Murray Sabrin on the air. Several mentions on August 26th.

## CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE

NJLP member John Paff leads a non-partisan advocacy group. See how the media respond. Page 3

## THE ACLU'S GOOD WORK

NJLP Chair Len Flynn sets the record straight on who carried the torch in the CAPP ballot access suit.

Page 9

## BOB GRANT HOSTS DEBATE: SABRIN VS. PEZZULLO

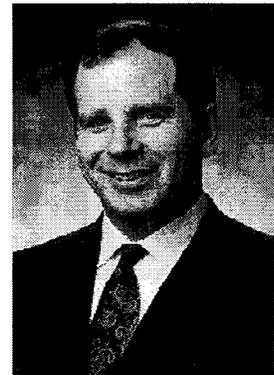
Nationally syndicated WOR Radio talk show host Bob Grant hosted a live, on-the-air debate between Libertarian and Conservative party candidates for

Governor, Murray Sabrin and Rich Pezzullo, on Monday, August 18.

Grant conducted a lively repartee which focused entirely on public policy issues. The candidates acquitted themselves well, in that they focused on the public policy issue at hand. Sabrin feels that Grant warmed more to the libertarian argument, because "I gave an economic and historical background for



Murray Sabrin

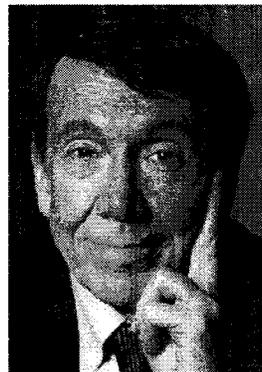


Rich Pezzullo

my positions, which he (Grant) appreciated."

Unlike traditional Republican/Democrat debates, clear differences between the candidates emerged. For example, both candidates responded to a caller who pointedly asked Sabrin about legalizing drugs. While Sabrin explained that re-legalizing drugs would actually reduce drug use, Pezzullo dramatically announced that "if you use drugs, the state of New Jersey will hunt you down" and added that the state would have his wholehearted support for doing so.

Other less dramatic differences between the candidates may actually be more important. For example, both candidates felt that school taxes are oppressive and must be redressed, so Sabrin proposed measures to privatize education, removing it from government control, while Pezzullo said it calls for vouchers, less appeasement of the teachers' union, more promotion of traditional values, and limits on property tax hikes. Sabrin says that "Pezzullo wants to get rid of the property tax as a method of funding education, but doesn't want to face the huge increases in other taxes that would entail, to maintain the current government sponsorship of schools." He adds that Pezzullo "believes in government solutions to many issues people really care about."



Bob Grant

## Contents September 1997

An Improvement for Sussex County.....	2
Fortune Cookie.....	2
Star Ledger Reports SABRIN support.....	2
Sussex County Farm and Horse Show.....	2
Quote of the Month.....	2
Citizens For Justice.....	3
Name That Sage.....	4
The Englishman's Perogative: Trial by Jury.....	4
SABRIN Inspires and Appeals at Rally.....	5
SABRIN '97 The Beat Goes ON.....	5
C-SPAN Coverage Available.....	5
Freedom Daily.....	6
Barnegat Pleasures.....	7
Do You Serve In Public Office?.....	7
NJLP Picnic and General Meeting.....	7
Upcoming Meetings.....	7
OPINION.....	8&9
Advertising Rates.....	10
Membership Form.....	11
CALENDAR.....	12

## In The Spotlight...



**Eugene Richards**  
In June, Eugene Richards began year 28 as construction official for West Milford. A third-generation resident of this community, Richards is married to the former Phyllis Quating. They have one son, Mark. Richards belongs to the American Legion Post No. 5612 Memorial Post No. 489, and was a former commander of that unit. He personally serves as an elder in the Reformed Church of America, Warwick, N.Y. He is also on the Advisory Board of the Lakeland State Public Health Office. Richards' hobbies include outdoor oriented sports, and he usually finds his spare moments for the joys of to have been "interesting and enjoyable." *William Manning*

## ANOTHER LIBERTARIAN APPOINTED TO OFFICE

NJLP member **Eugene Richards** was appointed to the West Milford Township (Passaic County) Zoning

Board of Adjustment, effective July 1, 1997. The appointment by Mayor John Mulligan followed Richards' thirty years as Township Building Inspector.

Richards is also the father of NJLP member **Mark Richards**.

## MORRIS LIBERTARIAN PROMOTED

On August 11, NJLP member **Paul Anderson** of Chester, Morris County, was promoted from alternate to full voting member of the Chester Borough Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Paul's initial appointment was reported in the August 1996 *New Jersey Libertarian*.

## AN IMPROVEMENT FOR SUSSEX COUNTY

NJLP members **Robert Heitner, Mike Pierone, Tony Federici, and Ed Wiessmann** were among approximately ten citizens who helped to thwart creation of a Sussex County Improvement Authority by writing letters to the editor of Sussex County's local newspaper, the *New Jersey Herald*, between March and July.

In July, Sussex County's "Economic Development Partnership" -which had promoted the establishment of an Improvement Authority- announced that its Director had resigned and moved out of the county, and that its proposal to create an Improvement Authority is being shelved for lack of the requisite three votes on the Freeholder Board.

**Editor's Note:** *In New Jersey, improvement authorities are autonomous entities directed by political hacks appointed by a county's Freeholders. Although improvement authority board members do not stand for election or in any way answer to the taxpayers for what they do, they can borrow hundreds of millions of dollars to dabble in almost any business, with taxpayers obligated to repay it. This has happened in Hudson, Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, and other counties. Improvement Authority owned properties are also exempt from property taxes.*

## SUSSEX COUNTY FARM AND HORSE SHOW

NJLP members **Tony Federici, Don Imbriale, Mark Richards, Bill Hengler, Robert Drum, Chuck Karczag, and Ed Wiessmann** staffed the Libertarian Party's booth at the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show for its one-hundred-and-eight-hour duration, from August 1 to August 10.

NJLP Gubernatorial candidate **Murray Sabrin** and Public Relations staffer **Mike Buoncrisiano** also appeared at the fair for a walk-around tour with several local LP members on August 2.

Hundreds of passersby stopped to pick up literature ranging from single-issue-brochures to newsletters to platforms, and over four dozen people took the "world's smallest political quiz", the libertarian identifying device framed by the Advocates for Self-Government. Thirty-five prospective members gave their names and addresses, to be sent recruitment literature.

## STAR -LEDGER REPORTS SABRIN SUPPORT

In a rare mention of alternative party candidates, the Newark Star-Ledger published a front-page story about political trends and sympathies in the gun rights movement on Thursday, August 21. The story, entitled

"*This political gunfight has a different caliber*", quoted Larry Farrell, a director of Gun Owners of New Jersey, as saying that "Most board members are leaning toward Richard Pezzullo, the Conservative Party candidate, or Libertarian candidate for Governor Murray Sabrin."

## FORTUNE COOKIE

"The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do."

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Any cook of either sex, white or black, of any and all nationalities and religious affiliations, hereafter shall make and bake biscuits of a size not less than six inches in circumference, to weigh not more than one ounce when done, always to be served hot."

-Oklahoma State Legislature bill introduced by Senator Fletcher M. Johnson, 1926

## CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE

NJLP State Board member **John Paff** is the President of a non-profit, non-partisan citizens' group called **Citizens for Justice -Somerset County**, or CJSC.

CJSC is an advocacy group which monitors and comments on the conduct of local law enforcement and administration officials. The two items below are both CJSC news releases from mid-August. The first, about a corrupt judge's pension, was covered thrice: in the New York Times Metro Section, on NJN TV News, and a longer story which appeared in the Home News and Tribune (East Brunswick) of August 22.

### DECISION ON IMBRIANI PENSION DELAYED AGAIN

**TRENTON** - More than 3 years after pleading guilty to theft charges, former Somerset County Superior Court Judge Michael Imbriani is still collecting his \$75,000 yearly pension. The two state agencies which will determine the fate of Imbriani's pension blame each other for the continued delay.

For several months, Citizens for Justice in Somerset County has been pressing Senator John A. Lynch, (D-17), acting chair of the State House Commission, to place the Imbriani pension matter on the its agenda. After rebuffing several information requests, Lynch advised CJSC in a July 8, 1997 letter that he had recused himself from the matter in September 1995 due to a "prior personal and professional association" he had with Imbriani.

According to a June 28, 1997 article in the Home News and Tribune, Peter McDonough, former press secretary to Governor Whitman claimed that the State House Commission could not act on Imbriani's pension until it had received a recommendation from the state Division of Pensions. In a July 7th telephone call with a Division of Pensions official, Tom Bryan (609/292-9012) said that McDonough's claim that the Division of Pensions needed to make a recommendation was false. He said that the Division doesn't make such recommendations, and that the State House Commission has sole jurisdiction to decide the issue.

During an August 18th conversation with State House Commission Secretary Karen Kennedy (609/777-2481), CJSC was told by Kennedy that the Imbriani matter would not be discussed at the Commission's August 18th meeting, the delay being requested by Margaret McMahan of the Division of Pensions. According to Kennedy, McMahan said she needed more time to evaluate the Imbriani matter-due to its complexity-before the Division could make its recommendation. This, of course, doesn't comport with Tom Bryan's statement on July 7th that the Division didn't need to make a recommendation. CJSC is hopeful that the matter will be put on the Commission's next meeting agenda in late November 1997.

"The law sets up a clear procedure to be followed, and the state agencies aren't following it," said Linda Dawson, secretary of Citizens for Justice in Somerset County, referring to N.J.S.A. 43:1-2, et. seq. "Now, almost a quarter million dollars have been paid to this thief and the State House Commission is still twiddling its thumbs. Obviously, somebody's been protecting Mike Imbriani and his nest-egg for over three years now."

### SOMERSET SHERIFF TO CHANGE SEIZURE POLICY

Linda Dawson, Secretary of Citizens for Justice in Somerset County, Inc., filed a court challenge against Sheriff Robert Lund's court house entrance seizure policy. And, according to County Counsel Thomas Miller, it appears that Lund is going to change his seizure policy because of Dawson's suit.

The case began on March 7, 1997, when Dawson witnessed an incident near the metal detectors at the North Bridge Street entrance of the Somerset County Courthouse. Walter Lang, Sr. of Hillsborough had approached Sheriff Officers stationed at the metal detectors and asked for the return of his small blue pocket-knife that he left with them earlier that morning. The knife in question is a 3.5" long Swiss-Army type utility knife that is designed to be placed on a key-chain. One of the Sheriff Officers told Mr. Lang that the pocket-knife was "gone." When Mr. Lang inquired, "What do you mean it's gone?" the Sheriff Officer replied, "It's gone, it's contraband and it's confiscated." Mr. Lang then said, "But they told me when I came in that I could pick the knife up when I came out. If I had known that you'd confiscate it, I would have returned to my car and stored it there."

Afterwards, Dawson researched the law and learned that while the Sheriff may have been authorized by the forfeiture law to seize the knife, Lund could not forfeit it (i.e. divest Mr. Lang of ownership of the knife) without filing a formal forfeiture complaint against the knife in Superior Court. After Lang assigned his interest in the knife to Dawson, Dawson wrote to Lund asking for him to return the knife to her. Lund rebuffed Dawson's three written requests. On the final request, he simply stamped "denied" on it and sent it back to her.

On June 28, 1997, Dawson filed suit against Lund in Superior Court, Special Civil Part (Dawson v. Lund, Docket No. DC-2287-97) demanding return of the knife. Thomas C. Miller, County Counsel, filed an answer denying responsibility for returning the knife. But, after receiving Dawson's Motion for Summary Judgment, Miller reversed his position and conceded that Dawson's legal argument was correct. Dawson recovered the knife from Sheriff Lieutenant Jeff-

...continued on next page

## THE ENGLISHMAN'S PREROGATIVE: TRIAL BY JURY



In the July *New Jersey Libertarian*, an item briefly reviewed the origin of the jury system, mentioning the role of Henry Plantagenet (Henry II of England) in using trial by jury in the late twelfth century. Though an Angevin Frenchman himself, Henry ruled a predominantly Anglo-Saxon society which had only recently been conquered by his mother's Norman kin, and which retained many of the traditionally egalitarian elements of Saxon culture.

This is what American textbook authors of the fifties **Webb & Schaeffer** said about that culture:

*"It has been said that a manor was a miniature state of which the lord was ruler. He was never an absolute ruler, for he was always controlled by customary law beyond which he might not go without restraint either by his neighbors of similar authority or, in flagrant cases, by his overlord. On the continent, this condition was general. In medieval England, the villagers might be jurors or suitors in the manor court over which the lord himself or his steward presided. The lord was, however, not a judge; he recorded the decisions, but he did not give them; it was the serfs or villeins themselves who exerted the right of framing judgements. The jurors and suitors themselves were the court.*

*"Thus in medieval England -but not on the continent- a certain degree of political freedom was preserved, even among the lowest classes of feudal society. The interpretation of the lawyers and the influence of the royal courts tended to debase this right and to maintain that the only judge of a customary court was the lord or his steward. Nevertheless, the right was never wholly destroyed, and the germ of English freedom and self-government was thus obscurely preserved."*

SOURCE: Page 191, *Western Civilization*, By Charles Webb Jr. and Paul Schaeffer; Van Nostrand, New York, 1958

## SOMERSET SHERIFF TO CHANGE SEIZURE POLICY

...continued from page 3

rey Thompson on August 19th "When I talked with Tom Miller, I found out what I had expected all along—that Lund's office was in possession of a whole basket of similar articles seized from other courthouse visitors," said Dawson. "Miller said that he's working with Lund to develop a new policy for future seizures. However, Miller did not say what his plans were in returning the items that Lund had already seized."

I can understand why the Sheriff cannot allow weapons, even small pocket-knives, inside the courthouse. However, Lund's interest in protecting the public and court personnel does not justify him keeping the items forever. People should not be deprived of their ownership of property without due process of law. His officers should simply return seized property to their owners when they leave the courthouse, or if Lund considers the property dangerous enough, he should seek a judicial forfeiture of it. Hopefully this is what the new policy will require him to do."

## NAME THAT SAGE



**Thomas Paine**

Last month's quote,

*"He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."*

was taken from *Dissertation on First Principles of Government* by **Thomas Paine**, published in 1795.

*"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."*

Who said this? The answer in the October *New Jersey Libertarian*.



## SABRIN INSPIRES AND APPEALS AT RALLY

Murray Sabrin displayed the flair and charm that won him the NJLP nomination for Governor at a rally sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Somerset & Middlesex Counties (LPSMC) in New Brunswick on Monday, August 25.

Sabrin struck a balance between poise and verve that appealed to a mixture of familiar faces and curious newcomers, about forty in all. He mentioned his family's experience with arrogant government in Europe, traced his intellectual development and enunciated his principles. He then outlined a series of reforms to spin off some parts of government and streamline others: ending government monopolies in education, eliminating regulation and interference in insurance, ending the Drug War, and serving as a "Third Senator" in Washington to deflect the relentless buildup of Federal control. He called this "better government, and less of it".

Friendly faces from two organizations spoke up to wish Murray well during the public session; the American Association of Surgeons and Physicians (AASP); and Barry Grossman of Oxybusters of New Jersey. In a by-now familiar refrain, both said something to the effect that their organizations cannot endorse candidates, but would endorse Murray if they could.

Sabrin said there are "five keys to success" in every successful political campaign: commitment, dedication, passion, persistence, and teamwork, and asked all to display it on the spot by writing checks. He was interrupted by applause many times, and no one left between his half-hour address and the public session that followed. An auction conducted by LPSMC Chair John Paff immediately followed, wherein some coins and stamps were sold for handsome sums, with the Sabrin Campaign the richer for it. Sabrin reported "hundreds of checks pouring in with each day's mail" over the preceding fortnight, with his total at well over \$120,000.



### SABRIN '97: THE BEAT GOES ON...

-On August 17th, the day before Murray Sabrin's debate with Rich Pezzullo, the Bergen Record published a "Capital Talk" column by **Eugene Kiely** which described Murray's quest: to raise \$210,000 by August 31, winning an invitation to debate Christy Whitman and Jim McGreevey at the publicly funded, televised debates in October.

-New Jersey 101.5 talk show host **Jim Gearhart** interviewed Murray again on Wednesday, August 20. During that interview, a few minutes after being harshly criticized, Governor Whitman called in to promote her latest government mandated auto insurance program.

-Sabrin got another plug, from Ralph Corsi of the National Motorists Association, whose mailing list got an appeal to help attain the magic number of dollars to get Murray in the debates. Their mailer identified the NJ Libertarian Party and the NJ Conservative Party as "the major third party players".

-A strange new problem has cropped up. The Sabrin Campaign has been overwhelmed by a tidal wave of envelopes containing checks, which must be processed. The sheer volume of work involved in opening, recording, endorsing, depositing, filing, and of course regulation compliance, has overwhelmed campaign Treasurer Mark Peterson and his staff, which had to call in emergency assistance as the deadline approached.

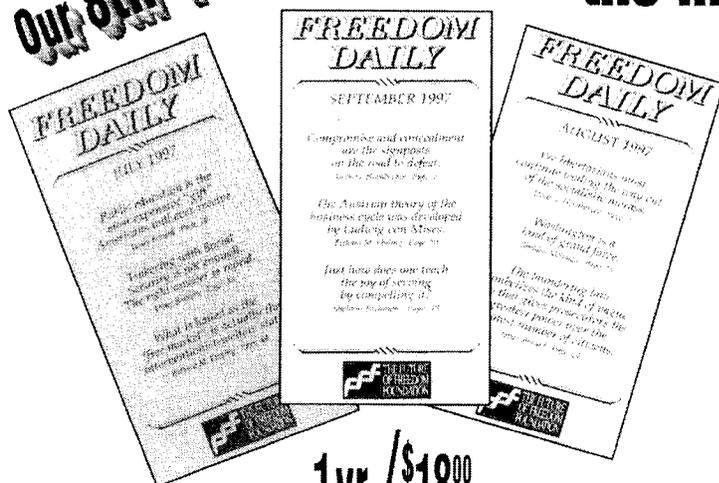
### C-SPAN COVERAGE AVAILABLE

The NJLP has learned that C-SPAN television coverage of selected events is available. If you know of an event that fits their format ("Public affairs programming"), contact an NJLP Officer. Find their e-mail address or phone number on Page 7.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### SABRIN FOR GOVERNOR/ NJLP MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

2 PM, Saturday, September 6  
Landmark Inn, Routes 1 & 9,  
Woodbridge Township Middlesex County  
\$25 per person/ \$45 per couple  
Choice of chicken, fish, or roast beef;  
includes fruit cup, salad, coffee, dessert.  
Proceeds shall go to the Sabrin Campaign.  
To order tickets or get more information, contact:  
Martelle Green (201) 825-3643  
Mpete@nis.net

### NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

1PM, Sunday, October 19  
At the home of Emerson Ellett;  
1308 Spruce Street  
Wanamassa, Ocean Township,  
Monmouth County, New Jersey  
For directions call Emerson at 732 774 3684  
or e-mail at FElett@ix.netcom.com

### NJLP GENERAL MEETING

1PM, Saturday, November 8  
At the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1640 Amwell Road, Somerset  
Franklin Township, Somerset County

### NJLP STATE BOARD MEETING

1PM, Sunday, December 21  
At Tumulty's Pub  
361 George Street, New Brunswick

### NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE

<b>Chair Len Flynn</b>	732 591 1328
LenFlynn@compuserve.com	
<b>Vice Chair Keith Quarles</b>	732 280 9615
KQuarles@att.com	
<b>Secretary Emerson Ellett</b>	732 774 3684
FElett@ix.netcom.com	
<b>Treasurer Lou Stefanelli</b>	732 450 0270
LMStef@juno.com	
<b>At-Large Janice Presser</b>	609 786 2522
JPresser@netaxs.com	
<b>At-Large Don Imbriale</b>	973 383 1271
DonJI@ptd.net	
<b>At-Large Mark Peterson</b>	201 825 3643
Mpete@nis.net	

## NJLP PICNIC AND GENERAL MEETING

July 12, 1997

**Location:** Home of Len & Ginny Flynn;  
Morganville, Marlboro Township,  
Monmouth County

**Officers Present:** Flynn, Quarles, Ellett, Stefanelli,  
Presser, Imbriale, Peterson

**Officers Absent:** None

The primary business of the day was pleasure, in the form of a picnic attended by some forty NJLP members. A formal but brief business meeting was called to order at 3pm, to consider two pending motions and hear several ongoing business reports and an address.

The membership voted to amend the by-laws to declare vacant the seat of any State Board Representative who misses a second State Board Meeting. (full text of the addition to the by-laws was published in the June *New Jersey Libertarian*)

Afterward, the membership heard an address by National LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

*NJLP Members desiring a photocopy this meeting's minutes as prepared by NJLP Secretary Emerson Ellett may send a SASE to the Editor, whose address appears on Page 9.*

## DO YOU SERVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE?

Many Libertarians serve in minor elected or appointed public offices like school boards, planning or zoning boards, commissions, and committees. If you're one of them, we need to know!

Don't think, as many of us do, that your office is too insignificant to mention. Your public service is an important statement about the character of Libertarians, and a fellow Libertarian somewhere may be inspired by your example.

So don't be shy, notify the Editor of the *New Jersey Libertarian* about the office you hold. Find his mail and e-mail addresses on Page 9.

## BARNEGAT PLEASURES

Approximately forty moonlight sailors were the guests of "Captain Jack" Kenell on the NORMA K. II, berthed in Point Pleasant, for a pleasant cruise through Barnegat Bay on the evening of Sunday, August 10.

The cruise was staged for the benefit of the NJLP's **State Fund**, which helps the treasuries of Libertarian candidates for state or local public office in New Jersey.

The organizers of this event were none other than **Elizabeth Macron** of forfeiture law reversal fame, and **Betty Florentine**, both of Brick Township, Ocean County.

The warm applause the event prompted from the guests suggest the possibility of similar future events.

# OPINION

## EDITORIAL: OUR GREATEST VICTORY YET



Elizabeth 'Liz' Macron

Attorney and NJLP member **Elizabeth Macron's** June Appellate Court victory promises to change New Jersey's chapter of the War on Drugs in a big way.

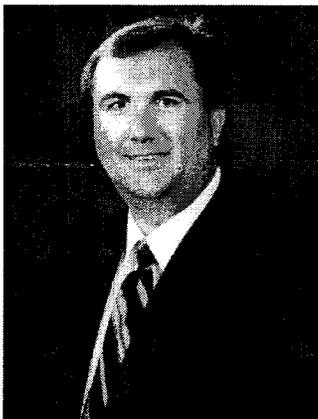
In agreeing with Macron, the Court ruled that jury trials for forfeiture victims are mandated by New Jersey's Constitution. That means that prosecutors and police who've gotten used to casually plundering passersby can't just demand "corrective legislation" from some State Senator and get their piracy privileges restored. They'll have to get the state's constitution amended before they can resume taking cash, cars, and real estate without going to trial and explaining why to a jury.

Getting spineless, unprincipled Republicratic politicians to sanction this theft of money and property in exchange for the votes of law enforcement is as easy as taking candy from a baby. However, changing the State Constitution is bound to attract more public scrutiny and skepticism than the routine drizzle of new laws from Trenton.

NJLP members have had some exciting accomplishments recently; Janice Presser "broke the ice" by getting our first endorsement for high office from a major newspaper in 1995; Harry Browne's 1996 campaign brought the NJLP our biggest influx of new members ever, and Murray Sabrin's bid for Governor this year is setting all kinds of NJLP recruitment and fundraising records. But in terms of actual change delivered to the public, Macron's courtroom triumph may be the single most significant victory the NJLP or any of its members have achieved yet. Laurels, congratulations, and gratitude are her due.

-EW

## LET'S CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS CAREFULLY



Mark Richards

Editor:

I was glad to see that Diane Adler's gun rights suit got covered in a national magazine (*Gun Rights for New Americans*, August *NJL*). What concerns me is that that magazine was the John Birch Society's *New American*.

The Birchers and other conservative groups aren't really our allies in the battle for liberty. I know this from experience, as I was a member of the John Birch Society in the early and mid-seventies. They take statist, anti-libertarian positions on issues like drugs, consensual sex (gay or straight), the draft, and abortion. I remember them admiring J. Edgar Hoover and his FBI from the '40's, and the House Committee on Un-American Activities of the '50's. They even wanted the Federal Communications Commission to ban the playing of rock-n-roll on radio stations in the '60's!

The John Birch Society Bookstore in Bound Brook (Somerset County) used to host meetings of the Populist Party, in which I did some outreach work in the early '90's. The Populists were even more intolerant than the John Birch Society. The Chair of their statewide organization, John Kucek, actually wore a Benito Mussolini T-shirt to a meeting once! I guess his Hitler shirt was at the cleaners. Add in a lot of skinheads, and you'll see why I didn't stick around too long with the Populists.

Although many of us agree with right-wing groups on a few issues like gun rights and the United Nations, we need to keep our movement pure and untarnished, so let's not get too chummy with them. Let us as freedom lovers be always vigilant against those who would undermine individualism, be they Left or Right!

**Mark Richards**  
West Milford Township

## THE ACLU'S GOOD WORK

Editor:

The front page headline to the August 1997 New Jersey Libertarian reads "CAPP wins ballot access suit," but the credit really belongs to the New Jersey Civil Liberties Union, whose able and very hard-working attorneys carried the day. **Lenora Lapidus** is the ACLU-NJ Legal Director who headed the case and she was ably assisted by **David Rocah**, ACLU-NJ Staff Attorney and volunteer attorney **Bill Volonte**. The Council of Alternative Political Parties, which included the NJLP, worked with the NJCLU and provided the plaintiffs for the lawsuit, but otherwise all the real work was done by the ACLU attorneys.

We owe them our thanks and can look forward to a more open electoral process because the stupid early filing deadline has been eliminated. Thank you, ACLU!

**Len Flynn**  
Chair, NJLP  
Marlboro Township

# OPINION

## WARMING PEOPLE UP FOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL

President Clinton is moving at full speed to use global warming as a justification for control of our productive activities. He's planning a big propaganda campaign to prepare us for the painful times ahead. The goal is to reduce the emission of gases, largely carbon dioxide, that are said to be dangerously warming the atmosphere. That acute "greenhouse effect" allegedly will cause untold catastrophe.

The gases come from the burning of fossil fuels, such as natural gas and oil. So the only way to reduce greenhouse gases significantly is to curtail production. But curtailing production will lower people's standard of living. Americans are pretty close to unanimous in wishing to raise their living standards. So we have a clash between the citizen and the state. Moreover, the people in the developing world, whose living standards are still behind ours despite much progress since World War II, stand to suffer immensely from any government-imposed slow-down in production.

But doesn't something as serious as global warming warrant extraordinary measures? The issue is not that simple. While believers in global warming get most of the attention, there is a substantial literature from climatologists and other scientists pointing out the lack of evidence for warming. Fred Singer of the Science & Environmental Policy Project, says that "precise weather satellite data, available since 1979 and covering the globe for the first time, show a slight cooling trend." Computer models of the world's climate might predict warming but the data do not. The believers in warming are in the position of Groucho Marx, who cried, "Who are you going to believe, me or your eyes?"

Singer points out that the climate has been anything but stable over recorded history. The earth apparently has been able to cool and warm without any help from man. In the 1970's some of the same people now scaring us about global warming were preparing for global cooling. The funny thing is that in each case the solution was government control.

The debate over global warming has gotten nasty lately. Believers say the skeptics are on the payroll of industrial interests. Some, but not all, get money from industry. But many of the believers get research money from government agencies. Why assume that a climatologist would sell out his scientific integrity to industry, but not to government? The government is not likely to continue to fund research that undercuts its case for activism. Are we not also entitled to regard scientists working under tax-funded grants as tainted? Perhaps the believers should stop muddying the scientific debate with unproved charges of intellectual corruption and stick to the evidence.

Years ago socialists said that collective ownership of the means of production would out-produce capitalism. But with the fall of socialism, those who dislike free markets have been hard-pressed to argue that economic freedom can't deliver the goods. So a new strategy has emerged. Socialists fault capitalism for producing too many goods, at the expense of life and the environment. In their view, the only hope is to cut back on industrial activity and let government manage the economy in the name of environmental protection.

In fact, mandating a cutback in production is dangerous. At a lower level of production, the world will not be able to sustain a population of five and a half billion and growing. Those who want population growth to be controlled should ask themselves whether they wish government to decide how many children they may have. The environmental movement should stop presenting its program as though it is costless.

The future is always risky because it is uncertain. The late scholar Aaron Wildavsky liked to say, "Wealthier is healthier". He meant that since we don't know exactly what dangers the future holds, the best hedge is wealth. Wealth permits the resilience and freedom of action needed to respond to the unforeseen. Government is not good at producing wealth. On the contrary, it limits the key precondition for production, liberty.

**Sheldon Richman**  
Vice President -Policy Affairs  
Future of Freedom Foundation

September 1997



### NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN

**Ed Wiessmann, Editor**  
**Mike Pierone, Layout**  
**Jack Toussaint, Printing**  
**Lou Stefanelli, Circulation**

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The *New Jersey Libertarian* is the journal of record of the New Jersey Libertarian Party, Inc., which is an affiliate of the Libertarian Party. Not all the opinions expressed herein reflect party positions.

News items that pertain to the LP or Liberty are always welcome. Please send clippings (preferred) or photocopies (acceptable). Always specify date, publication, and circulation if available. Letters to the editor are also welcome. Submission deadline: 22nd of each month.

Send news & letters to:

**Ed Wiessmann** 281 Houses Corner Road  
Lafayette, NJ 07848  
edgewest@ptdprolog.net

Send art and photographs to:

**Mike Pierone** 12 Winding Way  
Belvidere, NJ 07823  
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For hard copies of the NJLP Platform adopted in Convention March of 1996, send one dollar for each copy to: **Dan Karlan**

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# Calendar

**NJLP Steering Committee Meeting** 1PM, Sunday, October 19 see page 7.

**Bergen/Hudson LP** meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Location varies. For current information, call Lee Maclin at (201) 798-0867.

**Burlington/Camden LP** For meeting information and directions call (609)-273-3253, or e-mail [jpresser@netaxs.com](mailto:jpresser@netaxs.com)

**Gloucester County LP** meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Gloucester County Library in Mullica Hill. Guests are welcome. Call John Hill at (609) 468-9571

**Somerset/Middlesex LP** meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 7pm at Tumulty's Pub, 361 George St., New Brunswick.

**Mercer County LP** for meeting information, call Carl Peters at (609) 737-7667.

**Monmouth LP** meets the second Sunday of each month. Liberty Brunch at 11 am, meeting at noon. Call Keith Quarles (732) 280-9615 for location and details.

**Morris/Essex LP** meets at 7pm on the last Tuesday of each month. Call Mike Lewin (973) 884-0005 for information.

**Ocean LP** meet the second Wednesday of each month at the home of Betty Florentine. (732) 477-8496.

**Salem LP** meets regularly on the last Saturday of each month at 2pm. For location call Robert Dyson at (609) 678-8034.

**Sussex LP** Call Tony Federici at (973) 764-7289 for information.

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