



NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN

NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY, P.O. BOX 56, TENNENT, N.J. 07763

* * * MAY 1983 * * *

NUCLEAR WAR AND MORALITY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14-- JOHN HOLT will hold a workshop on "unschooling" from 1:30 to 5:30 PM at Priedaine Picnic Grounds, Hwy. #33, Freehold. Tickets \$7.50. Call Nancy Plent (201/938-2473) or Meg Johnson (201/447-4044) for details.

May 18-- Libertarian Supper Club of NY presents Prof. Paul Avrich on "George Bernard Shaw, Eugene O'Neill, and James Joyce: The Anarchist Connection." Garvin's Restaurant, 19 Waverly Pl., NYC. Dinner 7:30 pm (\$20). Call 212/858-5754 for reservations.

May 21-- Coalition of groups concerned in decentralist action. Theme: "Next Steps for Decentralists" with Jeremy Rifkin to speak about "The Green Revolution." Before May 10th send \$7.50 (adults) and \$3.50 (children)--after May 10th \$10 and \$5--to School of Living, R.D. 7, York, PA 17402.

Second Thursday of each month--Constitutional Freedom Committee meeting, 8 PM, Ollie's Restaurant, Route 9 and Tilton Rd., Northfield, NJ. Guest anti-tax speaker at each meeting. Call 609/927-2320 after 5 PM for details.

Every Thursday-- PHILAVOID anarchist study group meeting, 8 PM, Community Education Center, 3500 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA. Call 609/962-8238 for details.

On Tuesday, April 26 a panel on "Nuclear War and Morality" was held at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ. The panel was composed of three clergymen--Rabbi Robert Wolkoff, Father Ron Cioffi, and Dr. Edward Van der Hay--and was moderated by Sherri West, Brookdale Assistant Professor of History. This discussion was held in observance of Ground Zero Week (April 24-30) and was co-sponsored by the Monmouth County Coalition for Peace.

Prof. West began by observing that until recently churches have not addressed or even questioned the nuclear arms race. Now, however, churches ARE examining the existence of nuclear weapons and are even questioning defense policies. Prof. West believed that this change might be a reflection of the changes which have occurred in our defense policies.

In the past our strategy has been built upon the idea of deterrence or MAD--Mutual Assured Destruction. Now we hear more and more about tactical nuclear weapons and the idea that a limited nuclear war is possible.

Rabbi Wolkoff began the discussion by reading a "mid-draft" stage paper which will eventually be published for all the Conservative Rabbis in the U.S. He stated that Reagan's policies will weaken, not strengthen, the nation. American military nuclear strength is far superior to the Soviet Union's. Rabbi Wolkoff chose a Biblical quotation to describe a continuation of the arms race--"We will surely

NUCLEAR WAR...

die." He described the U.S and U.S.S.R. as "two men standing knee deep in gasoline. They hold 5 matches, we hold 7. Who's ahead? Who will win?"

He stated that the Russian people are not deluded by the current situation. Their nickname for the Russian Dept. of Civil Defense is "coffin."

The rabbi then went on to point out numerous parallels between a possible nuclear holocaust and the holocaust of WW II, and between the Nazi government of Germany and our present government. He compared Germany's massive, morally corrupt bureaucracy to our military-industrial complex. Rabbi Wolkoff concluded by saying that the firestorms created by nuclear blasts would make ovens of civil defense shelters--and Jews will never stand for a policy that will send them to the ovens again.

Dr. Van der Hay, a Baptist minister, said that this was the first time he had made any type of public statement about nuclear policies. He has met with Baptists abroad as well as here in the U.S. "War is too important to be left to the generals." He felt that Americans are too apathetic and should learn about important issues and voice their concerns.

Dr. Van der Hay looked at the world today and asked "How do we move the world back from the brink?" He ended by saying that he believed a nuclear arms freeze was moral IF it would really be enforced by both sides. If this is not possible then he seemed to say that the present arms race would have to continue.

Father Cioffi opened by pointing out that the our subject, "Nuclear War and Morality," was an ironic juxtaposition of terms. He said "Violence rests on the lie." It is a lie that Russians are source of all evil, just as it is a lie that the U.S. is the warmonger of the world. He said that the power that comes from the barrel of a gun is also a lie and an illusion.

He posed but did not answer this question: If nuclear war is immoral, then is it moral to possess something and threaten to use something that one can't use morally? He stated that we must not only disarm our arsenals but also our attitudes. We must stop lying to ourselves and stop allowing our leaders to lie to us. He closed by saying that we in the U.S. have a greater responsibility to speak out (than the Russians) because we have greater opportunity.

During the question and answer period Father Cioffi spoke of "systemic evil" but didn't carry the thought on to the evil of the state. In speaking about U.S. government policies, Rabbi Wolkoff said that as a particularist he believes that men have choices, thus the Secretary of State has chosen to sustain immorality.

When asked about the morality of unilateral disarmament Dr. Van der Hay simply said "Deterrence has worked so far." Rabbi Wolkoff pointed out that when faced with a choice of the known (a totalitarian state) versus the unknown (nuclear war), people opt for the unknown.

Paterson News

— News poll —

In a significant change of policy, the Reagan administration has ruled that states can require children of parents on Medicaid to pay for part of the cost of their care. Some say it is the morally right thing to do while others say that children should not have to bear the cost. Last week poll respondents split 4-4 on the question of whether the policy change is a good idea.

No. This sounds like a typical Reagan move in which the administration pretends to be cutting government, when in fact it is just rearranging some furniture in Washington. The libertarian solution is to abolish socialistic transfer schemes like Medicaid, letting private charity do its job in the climate of freedom.

MARK RICHARDS
West Milford

Libertarian incumbent urges party

By AL FRANK

The New Jersey Libertarian Party can build its political muscle by slating its members for smaller government bodies "where one person can make a difference."

That message was delivered yesterday to the state party's annual convention in Bernards Township by the only Libertarian Party member who holds political office outside Alaska.

Richard Siano, one of three members of the governing body of Kingwood Township in Hunterdon County, said he did not mean party members should give up efforts to win state and national office.

But he said he believes members can better demonstrate what the party stands for by clinching positions on smaller bodies that control municipal and county governments.

As an example of the impact this can have, Siano,

to 'think small'

a TWA pilot, drew on the experience of his first year on the Kingwood Township Committee. In that time, he said, he has focused primarily on helping to achieve a "real libertarian goal, to give people back the money that was stolen from them."

He said his efforts have contributed toward reducing municipal spending in the rural community of 2,772 residents from \$460,000 in 1981 to \$405,000 in 1982. The 1983 budget totals \$403,000, he said.

"I guarantee that wouldn't have happened if I weren't there," he said. Siano contended he has done nothing more radical than examine each line item and question the need for keeping large amounts of money in surplus.

Along the way, posts like that of a township historian have been abolished as has the salary of committee members who were each paid \$1,300. He said the key to persuading his colleagues is presenting logical, well-prepared arguments.

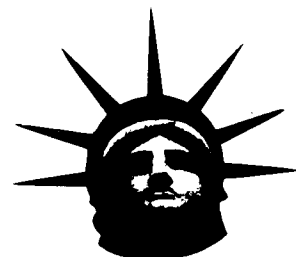
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Siano was elected to his three-year term in 1981. His post, and that of two members of the Libertarian Party who hold seats in the Alaska Legislature are considered unique because they were won by competing in an arena traditionally dominated by members of the Democratic and Republican parties. However, other Libertarian Party members hold office on such non-partisan bodies as school boards such as Sayreville's Randy Corman.

Approximately 30 of the 350 members of the state party heard Siano's talk. Several asked him how he could square working within a system that traditional Libertarians hope will eventually be abolished. Siano admitted there is a "contradiction between principle and participation" but said he figures political activism is the only one that will bring about change even though "all was illegitimate as far as we're concerned."

Last year, New Jersey Libertarian Party candidates for various state and local offices drew about 25,000 votes, said Robert Shapiro of Teaneck, state chairman.

The national Libertarian Party was formed in 1972 and has slated a candidate in every presidential election since then. The 1980 candidate, Ed Clark and running mate David Koch, received 20,652 votes in New Jersey up from the 9,449 the Libertarian presidential candidates won four years before.



Ending Committee Salaries Set Kingwood Tone, Siano Says

To the Editor:

In your most recent editorial you appear to be confused about the Kingwood Township Committee salary in that on one hand you say that we are "to be commended for voting away their salaries" and on the other hand you say "the committeemen do a job and should be paid." These two statements are contradictory and confusing. Should we or shouldn't we be paid?

In fact there are many people who work for the municipality and receive no pay. The members of the planning board and the members of the board of adjustment, the rescue squad, the fire company and others.

In many cases some of these people work just as hard and attend as many meetings as committeemen. If working for no salary in these positions is okay, why is it wrong for a committeeman to receive no salary?

The resolution to eliminate the salaries was introduced by me and reads as follows: "Whereas the current difficult economic conditions require action by the committee to reduce the financial burden on the taxpayers of Kingwood and in an effort to return a sense of community honor to the office of Kingwood committeeman, be it resolved that their salary for 1983 be eliminated."

This resolution was passed as the first order of business at the Jan. 11, 1983 special meeting that had the purpose of reviewing the salaries of all the township officials as well as

letters

other budgetary matters.

The intent of this resolution was to "set the tone" for these negotiations by indicating to all involved the very strong will on the part of the 1983 committee to reduce taxes by reducing expenditures.

As a result of this strong will, the 1983 budget for municipal functions is **less than** the 1982 budget which was **greatly reduced** from the 1981 budget. What this means to the Kingwood taxpayer is that the amount of taxes to be collected has **been reduced** by a substantial amount for the past two years. Do you know of any other New Jersey municipality that has accomplished this?

This issue of the committee salary has served well to indicate to the taxpayers of Kingwood the intentions and strong will of at least two of its committeemen.

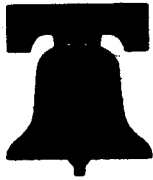
R.P. 'DICK' SIANO

Committeeman

Kingwood Township

PS: Question: What appears to be the difference between a "Kingwood elitist" and a "Kingwood non-elitist"? Answer: Approximately \$97.50 per meeting. D.S.

Editor's note: There was no contradiction. We commend your motives and spirit, but not the action.



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Material must be received by the 23rd of the month to be in the following issue.

rites of Spring: TAX PROTEST DAY

by Len Flynn

On Friday evening April 15, 1983 I joined a man from the Golden Mean Society in protest against the income tax. The weather was cold and damp, but our hearts were warmed by the support from harried taxpayers leaving the post office after mailing their tax returns.

We pointed out to these people that since their returns would be postmarked April 16th, they would technically be late filers subject to fines and penalties. Having thus gained their attention (not very difficult!), I said "We don't believe the American people should be treated like criminals." Then I offered them our literature.

We distributed over 100 pieces of GMS and Libertarian anti-tax material in just a few hours. With more NJLP member support I think we could really make an impact. But whether alone or with others, I'll be at the post office next year for Tax Protest Day--1984.

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