



# NJ LIBERTARIAN

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

\* \* \* September <sup>1981</sup> \* \* \*

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the NJLP Steering Committee will be held Saturday, September 19th at 1pm at the Flagship Restaurant, Joseph St., East Brunswick.

## GENERAL AND STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On August 8, 1981 at 4:00 p.m. two NJLP meetings were held at Swirsky's in Manalapan. First, a General Meeting heard that a balance of \$688.68 lay in the Party account. Then party Chair Bill George reported that Carl Samson had resigned as NJLP Vice Chairman. Newsletter Editor Ginny Flynn reported an increase in the U.S. Mail rate from 3.5 to 3.8 cents; however, \$30 in advertising considerably reduced the cost of the last N.J. Libertarian. Ginny also reported an NJLP Speakers Bureau expense of \$4.68.

Three items of new business included an announcement that letters will be sent to all County Clerks requesting line or row C for the fall election, a report that \$250 had been raised for the Moyers for Governor campaign, and a request by Bob Shapiro that, when the NJLP Bylaws are revised, substitutes be permitted for Steering Committee meetings.

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## \*\*\*CONVENTION '82 UPDATE\*\*\*

NJLP Convention '82 is shaping up and promises to be the best yet--which would be appropriate since it will also be the NJLP's 10th anniversary. According to Chair Bill George it will probably be held at the Beacon Manor in Point Pleasant Beach. So far there are tentative plans for a panel on national defense, an "unschoolers" workshop with Nancy Plent, Peter Breggin for lunch, and Murray Rothbard for the banquet. If you would like to help with the convention, please contact Bill at 201/654-3954.

## GOVERNOR'S RACE

A recent survey reveals that the race between Florio and Kean is very close, which means that a strong LP campaign by Jack Moyers could be very effective. The survey shows that Florio is leading in the following counties: Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, and Salem. Kean is slightly ahead in Atlantic, Bergen, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren. This provides an opportunity for those counties where we have NJLP organizations to become actively involved in Jack's campaign. Those interested in contributing time and/or money can reach Jack at Moyers for Governor, 14 Belle Place, Aberdeen, NJ 07747--201/566-3511.

## SLS CONVENTION

From August 14th to 17th Students for a Libertarian Society held their national convention at New York University in Manhattan. We attended as did several other NJLP members.

The business of the convention included voting on constitutional amendments, a new SLS Statement of Purpose, and electing a new Director and Student Board. Surprisingly, all this business was transacted within the allotted time. Kathy Jacob easily won her race with Steve Reed for Director. The new Student Board members are Bruce Majors, Jeff Friedman, Jim Peron, Mark Brady, Marc Joffe, Paul Jacob, Alex Reyes, Steve Reed, and Ross Levater. Four alternates were also elected--Kathy Rice Woolsey, David Greene, Dennis Auerbach, and Bob Capozzi.

Highlights of the weekend included workshops on libertarian campus issues, a somewhat heated debate between Bill Evers and Milton Mueller on SLS campus strategy, films, and a lecture by Dr. Peter Breggin on "The Libertarian as Humanitarian: How to Communicate Libertarianism to Idealistic Students." The Sunday evening banquet featured Karl Hess--a very witty and astute speaker.

The only disappointing aspect of the convention was the loss of the Karl Hess Oscar-winning film "Toward Liberty." Apparently, it was lost when the car it was in was towed away for being illegally parked--we never got to view it.

Logistically, the convention was well-planned by Marc Joffe of NYU. Very low cost dorm rooms were available for those who attended and the location was excellent. The heart of Greenwich Village made eating, shopping (especially book browsing), and just walking about a pleasure. All in all, we spent a very enjoyable, inexpensive weekend with other libertarians.

--GF

## Meetings...

Following the General Meeting the NJLP State Committee met. Present were B. George, B. Swirsky, L. Flynn, B. Siegel, B. Shapiro, J. Steele, and D. Hurley. Absent were R. Rothhouse, J. Balint, E. Lofgren, P. Furlong, A. Short, and R. Siano. (A quorum of 7 was present.) The Committee members elected Barry Siegel to fill the Vice Chair vacancy. (Barry simultaneously resigned as an At-large Representative upon his election.) Barry defeated "none of the above" by a resounding 6-1 tally.

Kathy McAdam then concluded the afternoon meetings with an enthusiastic endorsement of an "Actualizations" workshop she recently completed. We adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

BY GEORGE

Now that our new National Chair and other officers have been installed, it's time for us to reunite and push for more services for New Jersey.

Did you know that the national office and the Clark campaign together have taken about \$41,000 in contributions out of New Jersey since Jan. 1, 1979? It seems hard to believe, but that's what computer printouts reveal. And the national office has never spent a dime on an NJLP ballot drive.

It's time that we started getting something for our money. I urge everyone to write to both the National Chair and our Regional Representative and demand that something be returned to New Jersey--a regional convention, a candidate's school, or whatever--or the money source will dry up. It's our money and it's only fair.

## HELLER ON PATERNALISM

by Len Flynn

The following article from the August 1981 issue of *The Freeman* (Foundation for Economic Education; Irvington on Hudson, NY 10533) was written by Esler G. Heller, a longtime libertarian activist and a good friend. Les practices his free market commitment as owner of the New Egypt Auction and Farmers Market, where he provides a competitively priced location for small merchants and their customers to trade and bargain.

He fully accepted libertarianism—after many years of "personal experience and the wisdom of Leonard Read." He is no stranger to the evils of government. In the late 1960's Les had his 33rd St. Manhattan property condemned by New York City for a school. In 1975 he quit the refuse hauling business in the face of continually increasing and more oppressive regulation and controls. In the late '70s Les had to give up for taxes the apartment building in

Manhattan which had been in the family since 1914. The revenue from the rent-controlled apartments could not keep up with taxes and maintenance. Now he is pestered by various state inspectors and the ever-present tax collectors.

Les Heller is well known to area libertarians due to his tireless dedication and hard work to spread the freedom philosophy. He has written numerous letters to the editor, given speeches to various civic and religious groups, and worked tirelessly for the Clark for President campaign and NJLP candidates. At the NJLP state convention this March he gave a stirring speech in presenting an NJLP award to Leonard Read.

Les lives in New Egypt with his wife, Sandy, and their two children, Aaron and Talba. He is our good friend and an exemplary libertarian—and he can write well too! See for yourself.

## Paternalism and Charity in a Free Society

Esler G. Heller

A GREAT TRUTH is very simple; a great error is being perpetuated behind a facade of complexity. The great truth is that only a limited government free society would provide the framework and atmosphere in which human beings (free from arbitrary compulsion in all creative aspects of life) could achieve their greatest spiritual and material growth with the least opportunity for mischief.

The great error is in thinking that to achieve peace, prosperity, and justice, the interdependence, high technology, and infinite complexity of our society require that its guidance and control be vested in a technocratic state of great power and matching complexity.

In spite of its size, complexity and pretensions of equalitarianism, the

Esler Heller is manager of the New Egypt Auction and Farmers Market in New Jersey and a member of the New Jersey State Society of Auctioneers.

authoritarian state is unable and unwilling to deal effectively with individual inequalities. Therefore it divides its subjects into special groups and attempts by legislative compulsion to satisfy the "rights" (read *demands*) of each group at the expense of all others (excepting of course the state and its cohorts). Thus it tramples on the basic principle of freedom: that when the true rights of individuals are protected, the rights of all groups are protected. Government favors to one group must be at the expense of others. The effect is to pit group against group, establishing fairly rigid classes in what was to have been a classless and mobile society.

A cherished myth of statism paints the free society as wonderful for capable, ambitious, self-reliant, self-sufficient, and wealthy persons, but unacceptably harsh toward those of lower levels of ability, motivation,

and resources. The proffered solution is the welfare state. The welfare state may impose a degree of material equality, spiritual atrophy, suppressed rage, and destruction of self-respect among the governed. However, the real inequality of material benefits and power enjoyed by the elite upper echelons of the establishment contrasted with the hardships and impotence of the rest of the people is an ever-widening chasm.<sup>1</sup>

Those who have faith in freedom believe that within the limited-government and free society all economic and psychic factors are automatically integrated in the most harmonious arrangements possible for the essentially good, but nonetheless flawed, nature of man. The free society tends to develop virtue and discourage vice, using no compulsion except to restrain the initiation of violence and fraud. History confirms this faith. Periods of greater freedom have invariably coincided with more peace, justice, and prosperity.

### Vital Differences

The welfare state establishes a certain inescapable level of dependence and servitude for both ruled and rulers. The free society embodies a free market which offers whatever degree of independence or dependence, self-sufficiency or paternalism, solitary effort or cooperation each unique individual finds most compatible with his estate (age, health, wealth, education, personality, tastes, and character). The free market most efficiently allocates not only material goods, but also psychic, spiritual and emotional values as well. Each member of a free society has the maximum opportunity to choose that degree of independence or subservience, responsibility or submission to authority that best suits him at any given time, and to change this voluntary arrangement as he and his needs change.

Persons, groups, business and religious organizations eager to fill the role of friend, helper, healer, advisor, consultant, teacher, guardian, insurer, employer, master or guru exist today, and more would spring up as government restraints were removed. Their existence and growth in spite of the pre-emption of resources and assumption of responsibility by statist governments, and in spite of the social unrest and resentment generated by government usurpations, is strong proof of man's instinct for freedom. It also reflects a natural rebelliousness to government interference.

In a free society, those in need of help would not have to seek out and importune their prospective "benefactors." Each needs the other, and from motives of material and psychic profit there would be a mutual search—a competition for clients and services just as producers and buyers of goods in a free market compete to cooperate most advantageously with each other. The same applies to charity. It is also an exchange transaction between willing parties in mutual anticipation of finely interwoven psychic and material benefits.

### Mutual Responsibility

Without the coercive power of the state to establish or support welfare monopolies, doers of good works must court and gain the consent of their prospective wards, clients, congregations, pupils, and the like. The recipients of charitable acts and gifts

must also act to make the exchange attractive—that is, acceptable to the giver. This imposes a degree of responsibility and therefore an opportunity to retain self-respect which tends to be lacking where government favors such as guaranteed income, housing, education, and medical care are treated as "rights" to be claimed, but not necessarily deserved.

The Hebrew prophets and Jesus teach us to do charity willingly, cheerfully, and preferably, anonymously. How, except in a free society, is this possible? Under statism the establishment does its good works with other people's money. It regards redistribution, not even as charity, but as a necessary evil—a prophylactic measure to keep the masses dependent and pacified. The poor recognize the dole for what it is, and are demoralized. Those of a cynical nature push their demands to the utmost. The vicious and audacious see it as confirmation of their self-pity and justification for robbery, theft, rioting, and looting.

This malaise is compounded by the nature of "welfare" laws and social "achievements" such as restrictive child labor, minimum wage, and organized labor laws which keep the poor in enforced idleness. Simultaneously the wealthy and tax-producing members of society are deprived of the opportunity, the incentive, but most of all, the means to perform charity. State-enforced redistribution, far from being charity, is recognized by both expropriated and recipients alike as injustice institutionalized.

Private charity is very much alive in the United States, and growing to compensate for government failures and government-created hardships. The sacrifice and generosity of millions of persons supporting the panoply of recognized voluntary organizations and informal ad hoc groups, together with innumerable daily instances of person-to-person help, is preserving our sense of moral responsibility to aid one another. The total amount of private charity is vast, and cannot be measured in dollars alone. It is efficient and humane, and characteristically American. It puts the lie to "liberal" assertions that, without government redistribution, suffering and privation would sweep the land. Careful observation reveals misgovernment as the principal cause of the hardship that redistribution purports to relieve. It confirms lib-

ertarians in their faith that had people the freedom to control the fruits of their own labors, philanthropy and charity would flourish as never before.

### How to Proceed

All discussions of the free society eventually lead to the problem of how to get from here to there. Sadly, there is no "freedom button" to press which will instantly remove "all man-concocted restraints against the release of creative energy" together with the cumulative effects of past restraints. While we cannot learn to swim without water, neither should we push the non-swimmer into a raging torrent. Many persons, through little or no fault of their own, are now largely dependent on government dole. It would be an injustice to punish them for the sin of those who encouraged or permitted the government and the establishment to manipulate them into this dependency.

To suddenly impose severe hardship on these unfortunate persons would not advance the cause of freedom. The most recent Libertarian Party presidential candidate, Ed Clark, has said that welfare should be among the last governmental institutions to be dismantled in the move to freedom. Only when the public is prepared to follow leaders truly committed to freedom, who will irrevocably renounce man's ages-long dalliance with authoritarianism, can freedom be approached. At that point a phased withdrawal "with all deliberate speed" from compulsory schemes of redistribution would be possible.

The free society, far from lacking compassion toward persons with physical, mental, moral, social, or economic handicaps, will prove to be both just and compassionate, not only to the disadvantaged, but to all persons and groups. It permits those who can fulfill their own responsibilities and still have human or material resources left for philanthropy, those who would be teachers, helpers, defenders, leaders, to make a myriad of voluntary arrangements with their fellows for mutual betterment and satisfaction. Compulsion can only teach compulsion, but voluntary good works are an encouraging and uplifting example. Absence of compulsion is essential to civilized progress, and is the essence of the free market, true charity, and liberty. ☉

"ILLEGAL TAX PROTESTORS  
THREATEN TAX SYSTEM"

NJ LIBERTARIAN

Federal tax collectors seem to have a problem which may "represent a threat to our Nation's voluntary (!) tax system" namely so-called "illegal tax protestors." To find out what's bugging the IRS just send for a "free" copy of U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) publication GGD-81-83 dated July 8, 1981 from: U.S. GAO; Document Handling and Information Services Facility; P.O. Box 6015; Gaithersburg, MD 20760 or phone 202/275-6241.

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#101

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Send to: NJLP, Bonnie Swirsky, 7 Maxwell Lane, Englishtown, NJ 07726.

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( ) Sustaining \$25 ( ) Lifetime \$100. ( ) Lifetime Sustaining \$250.

2) If this is a Household Membership, please indicate the names of all members:

3) If you do not want your name to appear on a Libertarian Mailing List, Check here ( ).

4) Do you have any experience or interest in political or organizational work?

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to "New Jersey Libertarian Party".



NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE

State Chair:	Bill George	201/233-4082
Vice-Chair:	Barry Siegel	201/743-8686
Secretary:	Len Flynn	201/928-0758
Treasurer:	Bonnie Swirsky	201/431-4491
Members-at-Large:		
	Jo Ann Balint	201/687-3469
	Paul Furlong	609/259-3927
	Bob Shapiro	201/836-6741

STATE COMMITTEE

Atlantic County	Bob Rothhouse	609/641-4110
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Camden County	Al Short	609/546-5451
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Hunterdon County	Dick Siano	201/996-2469
Monmouth County	Dan Hurley	201/679-4547

\*party phone

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