



T H E N E W J E R S E Y  
**LIBERTARIAN**

JULY

1988

**If not now, when?  
If not me, who?**

**By Rick Hoegberg**

Now is the time for all good folk to come to the aid of the Libertarian party. As you may know, we in this Garden State are relatively blessed with a mere 800 signature requirement for getting our presidential candidate on the November ballot. Only Tennessee (the Volunteer state) has a less onerous requirement of 275.

By contrast, many states require our noble party to deal with such staggeringly dispiriting goals as 20 or 30,000! Worse, 30,000 net means 45,000 to get a safety margin for invalid signatures. That's a lot of work.

Should or can we help? The answer to both questions is YES. After all, it's not enough that Ron Paul appear on the ballot in NJ. We're sitting pretty, but nearby in other states, they've a long way to go.

I spoke with Paul Jacob the other day. He's in charge of the national ballot access effort. He was delighted by my suggestion that there are sure to be libertarians here in NJ, willing to venture to other nearby states for one or two weekends and help collect signatures.

So how about it? Yes it's a damned statist obstacle and approaching strangers for a signature to put a 3rd party candidate on the ballot isn't easy. That's the negative way to look at it. Dwell on it long enough and it's easy to give up.

OR

This can be looked on as an adventure with some fellow libertarian friends to another place where we can meet other libertarian friends, help them out & have fun furthering our vision.

Here & now, I'm publicly committing to at least 2 weekends of effort, on

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 19-25-- Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) week long seminar, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York (\$500). Call 914/591-7230.**

**July 3-- NJLP Annual Picnic and General Meeting, 1:00 PM to ??? at 254 Tennent Road in Morganville (Flynn's home). General meeting scheduled for 3:00 PM.**

**July 28-31-- FEE weekend seminar (\$150).**

**August 7-13-- 4th World Conference of Libertarian International in Mbabane, Swaziland. For information write Libertarian International, 9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, VA 23229 or call 804/740-6932.**

the condition that at least 3 other people also step forward for each weekend. Your commitment will be that you are able and willing, to go with me to PA, NY, DE, MD, or any state in New England. We'll meet & stay with other libertarians, while we collect signatures. I'll be organizing contacts etc based on those commitments.

We're talking Responsibility, Dedication, Commitment and Gumption. The cause is worth your while. This is self interest, not altruism. Let's do it. Call me at home (201) 560 9773 or work (201) 834 1279.

NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H or B) \_\_\_\_\_

I live in the municipality of \_\_\_\_\_

I am eligible to vote in \_\_\_\_\_ county.

I am registered to vote in NJ.

Please do not include my name if the NJLP list is rented to other organizations.

NJLP Dues

Membership Category

\$300.00

Lifetime Sustaining

I would like to contribute: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

200.00

Lifetime

\$15.00 Libertarian National Party Dues (one year).

50.00

Sustaining

NJ Libertarian subscription only, \$10.00.

35.00

Supporting

I am not the first member at this mailing address, and do not

15.00

Regular

wish to receive the newsletter. (\$10.00 may be deducted from the

5.00

Student (School: \_\_\_\_\_)

Regular membership dues only.)

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

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature indicating acceptance of above statement is required for membership)

NJLP Bylaws require that members either live or work in NJ.

Make checks payable and return to: NJLP, PO Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763

# Why we're losing the war on drugs

By Kurt Schmoke

## That's Democracy!

Democracy does not contain any force which will check the constant tendency to put more and more on the public payroll. The state is like a hive of bees in which the drones multiply and starve the workers so the idlers will consume the food and the workers will perish.

— Plato

Has the time come to add America's "war on drugs" to the long list of history's follies? In the view of historian Barbara Tuchman, to qualify as folly, a policy must not only be unsuccessful, it must also be plainly against the interests of those in whose name it is being carried out. And folly has one more characteristic: Nobody wants to recognize it.

Whether the drug policies of the United States have reached the point of folly, I'm not prepared to say. But this much seems apparent: Political maturity, intellectual honesty, and justifiable concern about drug-related violence make raising the question long overdue.

This is why I asked the U.S. Conference of Mayors last month to adopt a resolution calling upon Congress to hold hearings on whether to decriminalize narcotics.

The details — which drugs would be legalized, and how and by whom they could be purchased — would be left to Congress and state legislatures to decide after first concluding on the basis of research and testimony that some form of decriminalization is warranted.

Many who oppose decriminalization argue that it will serve as

an open invitation to use drugs. If there is evidence to that effect, then it should be dispassionately presented to Congress and other policymakers, but it should not stand in the way of a public debate about decriminalization.

The time has come to admit that the emperor has no clothes. The war on drugs is being lost, notwithstanding President Reagan's recent claim that we are digging our way out. And continuing our present policy — even with more money — is unlikely to make any difference.

There are three basic arguments in favor of decriminalization: libertarianism, economics, and health. I don't subscribe to the libertarian view that people should have a right to injure themselves with drugs if they so choose. Drugs — even if decriminalized — also pose a danger to third parties. But the other two arguments are compelling enough for Congress at least to study the question.

● **Economics.** Just as Prohibition banned something millions of people want, our current drug laws make it illegal to possess a commodity that is in very high demand. As a result, the price of that commodity has soared far beyond its true cost.

This has led to enormous profits from illegal drugs and turned drug trafficking into the criminal enterprise of choice for pushers and manufacturers alike.

I know this because for more than seven years I made a living putting people in jail. As an assistant U.S. attorney, and later state's attorney for Baltimore, I prosecuted and won convictions against thousands of defendants for drug-related crimes. Those crimes included murder of police officers and civilians; the victims included innocent bystanders and children

caught up in criminal enterprises whose danger they could never appreciate.

During my years as a prosecutor, as I watched drug crime change the character of America's cities, I learned some important lessons.

First, drug traffickers — no matter how high-up or how venal — care very little about the sanctions of the criminal justice system. Going to jail is just part of the cost of doing business. It's a nuisance, not a deterrent.

Second, drug dealers fear one another far more than they fear law enforcement officials. They know that the police must give them due process, but competing drug dealers will kill them at a moment's notice.

Finally, profit is the engine driving drug trafficking. Neither criminal sanctions nor even the competitive business practices (murder, extortion, kidnapping) of their fellow dealers have much, if any, effect on people who trade in drugs.

But take the profit out of their enterprise — and you'll get their attention. Perhaps it's time to fight the crime epidemic associated with drug trafficking by communicating with the drug underground in the only language they understand: Money.

Decriminalization would take the profit out of drugs and greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the drug-related violence that is currently plaguing our streets. Decriminalization will not solve this country's drug abuse problem, but it could solve our most intractable crime problem.

It is very easy for people living in communities where drugs are not a problem (and those are becoming fewer all the time), to argue that drug-related violence cannot justify decriminalization. But if you have to live with that vio-

lence day in and day out — as millions of people in large urban areas do — and live in terror of being gunned down, robbed or assaulted, or having the same occur to one of your loved ones, you soon start wanting results.

Taking the profit out of drugs would have a detrimental impact on those who are now producing and selling drugs. Drug lords would no longer risk prison for a commodity that was not making them profit.

● **Health.** Some will argue that the public health risks from drugs will only worsen if they are de-

criminalized. Again, this is a question Congress would need to resolve, but there is every reason to believe that decriminalization would improve public health.

First, violent crime associated with illegal sale of drugs would fall dramatically. For those who doubt that, imagine how violent crime would increase if we once again made the use and sale of alcohol illegal.

Secondly, decriminalization would allow us to redirect billions of dollars now used for interdiction and enforcement, toward prevention and treatment.

Smoking kills over 300,000 people every year, but we have made the policy decision to treat tobacco as a health problem, not a crime problem, and we are making real progress. The number of people smoking continues to fall because of a concerted public education campaign about the health effects of smoking.

There is a no reason that we could not do the same with drugs. And then we could find the money we need to educate our young people on the harmful effects of drugs and treat those who are currently addicted, instead of engaging in a wildly expensive cat-and-mouse

game that the mouse is winning 90 percent of the time.

To make matters worse, the Reagan administration has continuously tried to cut drug programs aimed at the prevention and treatment of drug abuse. It was Congress, through its passage of the anti-drug abuse act of 1986, that enabled the United States to make an even modestly credible effort to treat and prevent drug abuse. But it is doubtful that even the effort of Congress will make much difference. Several hundred million dollars to fight the health effects of an enterprise earning billions is not sufficient. Only by applying a substantial portion of the more than three billion dollars invested in the total federal drug program can we begin to treat those currently addicted — many of whom now have AIDS — and properly educate our children about the harmful effects of drugs

Many political and opinion leaders will resist the notion that our current drug policy is folly, and perhaps they're right. But all the signs are there: We're spending billions of dollars in an effort that is enriching the very people we're trying to stop. And in the meantime, millions of people continue to use drugs and millions more have lost all confidence that they can live securely in their neighborhoods.

It takes great maturity and willpower for a society to step back from a policy that on the surface seems noble and justified, but in reality has only compounded the problem it is attempting to solve. On the subject of drugs, such maturity and willpower may now be in order. At the very least, we need a sober national debate on the subject.

Kurt Schmoke is the mayor of Baltimore.

## NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

By Len Flynn

On June 7, 1988 the NJLP Steering Committee met at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour in East Brunswick. Present were Karlan, Flynn, Maiullo, Friedlander, Stewart, and Swirsky. Absent were Zeldin and White. Chairman Karlan called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

The members first discussed the upcoming week's arrangements for the Andre Marrou visit. Then Dan Karlan suggested a NJLP Bylaws revision to allow voice vote for uncontested elections at the NJLP annual convention. A Bylaws review showed only Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised as the authority for the requirement; simply passing (2/3 vote) a motion to "suspend the rules" could permit such actions by the Convention.

Dan Maiullo reported that the incorporation status for the NJLP was presently "revoked" by the state due to alleged past nonreporting. He is investigating and will work to restore the incorporation.

The group received a report from Steve Friedlander about the NJLP phone. He noted that it would cost \$26/month for listing in all N.J. Bell white pages. The committee unanimously passed a motion to reiterate that the NJLP phone number is to be placed in all N.J. phone company white pages, Bell & otherwise, at an aggregate cost not to exceed \$50/month. (One free yellow pages listing in local phone directory will also be made.)

Under new business the committee unanimously passed four motions. The group authorized spending up to \$150 to reprint corrected NJLP tip cards and also approved reprinting new NJLP letterhead with matching envelopes for up to \$300. The letterhead will primarily be used for press releases this fall and will contain names of NJLP officers.

The committee authorized the newsletter editor to expedite delivery of the newsletter to State Committee members at her discretion. (The U.S. Snail delivers the N.J. Libertarian up to a month late to New Jersey members by bulk rate!)

Finally, the group passed a motion to "disavow all connection, financial and otherwise, with the June 9 functions involving Andre Marrou and with all literature pertaining thereto and/or purportedly authorized or representing the NJLP." The purpose of this motion was to correct an error of some members in publicizing the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next NJLP meeting is the annual picnic on July 3, 1988.

Bloomfield Life April 14, 1988

### Says B.A.D. coverage was bad

To the editor:

Your full-page pictorial on Operation Bloomfield Against Drugs was big on visual and emotional appeal, but seriously lacking in factual content and journalistic balance. This raises several important questions.

First, how many children and parents actually attended Operation B.A.D. this year? If attendance is continuing to decline, why didn't Bloomfield Life report this fact?

Second, did any medical doctors or scientists address the audience as part of the program? If not, why not? Wouldn't doctors and scientists provide more valid drug information than a football coach, a ventriloquist or a disc jockey from radio station Z-100? Wouldn't drug warnings from doctors and scientists be more credible than drug warnings from narcotics officers, who might be suspected of courting public support for the drug laws in order to guarantee their own job security?

Finally, why did Bloomfield Life neglect to mention the presence of activists from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws — or the fact that these NORML members were harassed by the Bloomfield Police, insulted by organizers of the program, and prevented from distributing literature at the door to Carteret School? Drug prohibition has failed to keep drugs away from children, and increased penalties have only made drug dealing more profitable by driving prices up.

Since the NORML members were not advocating drug use, but advocating change in the laws, why did these people get such a hostile reception? Doesn't this conflict indicate that at least some organizers of Operation B.A.D. are primarily interested in defending our government's futile drug policy, rather than educating our children against drug abuse?

I would like to see Bloomfield Life provide some answers to my questions, and I hope to see much better coverage of next year's Operation B.A.D.

Richard L. Duprey

FROM:  
Burning Issues  
June 1988



## The Cost of Prohibition

To the Editor:

The majority report of the law reform committee of the New York County Lawyers' Association, made public last August, is to my knowledge, the first bar association report to endorse legalization (nonprescription adult availability) of the main illegal drugs, such as cocaine and heroin. It also appears to be the first and only systematic cost-benefit analysis of drug prohibition.

The committee argues that drug prohibition causes about 7,000 deaths a year, through drug crime, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and poisoned drugs; and \$60 billion in economic loss, through drug price inflation and enforcement costs. The committee further argues that the benefits of drug prohibition are unknown, but probably minimal. The report challenges supporters of criminal drug laws to "present evidence that prohibition prevents more harm than it causes." No one has done so.

The argument that we should not legalize drugs because we are not certain about what would happen seems the last refuge of a prohibitionist. Prohibition itself was passed with little understanding of its likely effects. But now we know it was a disaster. Besides, we do know that drugs were freely available in the 19th century and were not a menace to society, according to Edward Brecher in "Vice and Illicit Drugs," by the editors of Consumer Reports.

And in 19th-century England, where opium was widely available, "incapacity from use of opium was not seen as a problem of such frequency and severity as to be a leading cause for social anxiety," according to the historians Virginia Berridge and Griffith Edwards in "Opium and the People" (1987). Stanton Peele, drug-abuse expert, notes that "for most of human history, even under conditions of ready access to the most potent of drugs, people and societies have regulated their drug use without requiring massive education, legal and interdiction campaigns" (Journal of Drug Issues, spring, 1987).

Drug prohibition costs nearly \$10 billion out of pocket each year, imprisons 75,000 Americans and by stimulating street crime, causes the deaths of thousands of Americans each year. Yet supporters of prohibition are unable to explain what benefits we derive from this policy. Thus, it is not surprising that the notion of legalizing drugs is finally being taken seriously. And none too soon. In today's America, a marijuana seed will get your boat seized without a hearing; the police can inspect your intimate private property (garbage) without a warrant, and a military trained to shoot first and ask questions later is about to join the war on drugs.

JAMES OSTROWSKI

Vice Chairman, Committee on Law Reform, N.Y. County Lawyers Assn.  
New York, May 17, 1988

## PROPER CREDIT: IF YOU PLEASE

Here's to the Thinkers!  
Praise them forever.  
Glorify them!  
Let us enshrine them for  
Writing of conquest and failure --  
Of beauty and tenderness  
Of love and hate  
Of glory and pain  
Of science, theology  
And philosophy's answers  
To suffering and pain --  
Of the depths of man's soul  
And the heights of his genius.  
Here's to the Thinkers --  
If you please.

Here's to the Innovators!  
Praise them forever  
Crown them!  
Let us not frown on their  
Noble endeavors of scoping  
And their groping for the answers to  
Problems of orbits and cycles --  
Of black holes and novas  
Of airplanes and rockets  
Of motions of planets  
Of expansion of worlds  
Of cosmical theories.  
Here's to the innovators --  
If you please.

Here's to the Capitalists!  
Praise them forever.

Name them!  
Let us not shame them for  
Raising our standard of living --  
Of breathing and feeling  
Of building and traveling  
Of drinking and eating  
Of writing and reading  
Of waking and sleeping  
Of countless technologies  
Of making life's sorry existence  
A sojourn of relative ease.  
Here's to the Capitalists --  
If you please.

Here's to the Statists!  
Shame them forever.  
Name them!  
Give them their due for  
Starving the people; for murder  
And plunder and mayhem and gore.  
Drown them forever in the tears of  
The ages of hunger and torture  
And piled-up bodies  
Of their victims of merciless war.  
To THEM goes the credit for  
A world full of evil  
And the ominous spectre  
Of bombs in the air  
And a world on its knees  
Here's to the Statists --  
If you please.

*By Alicia Patti*

FROM:

Freedom Network News

April/May 1988

New York Times

June 2, 1988

THE VILLAGE EDIT/Don  
/& Penny Hinkle/Box/  
205/Green Village/NJ  
07935/ (201)377-2176

*Writing + Editing*

**NJLP STEERING COMMITTEE**

|              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| State Chair: | Dan Karlan   | 201/444-2846 |
| Vice-Chair:  | Jerry Zeldin | 609/783-4306 |
| Secretary:   | Len Flynn    | 201/591-1328 |
| Treasurer:   | Dan Maiullo  | 201/577-8232 |

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| Members-at-Large: | Steve Friedlander | 201/781-6171 |
|                   | Laura Stewart     | 201/264-4492 |
|                   | Chris White       | 201/659-8088 |
|                   | Doug Swirsky      | 201/431-4491 |

**STATE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES**

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| Bergen County      | Mike Harris     | 201/891-3395 |
| Camden/Gloucester  | John Hill       | 609/665-6833 |
| Essex County       | Nick Polombo    | 201/736-7534 |
| Hudson County      | Don Meinshausen | 201/659-6786 |
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**COUNTY ORGANIZERS**

|                |            |              |
|----------------|------------|--------------|
| Passaic County | Ken Kaplan | 201/992-3991 |
|----------------|------------|--------------|

**NJLP PHONE: 201/781-6171**

**NJ LIBERTARIAN**

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These rates only apply to ads submitted camera-ready. There will be a charge for any additional preparation needed.

Material must be received by the 27th of the month to be in the following issue.

**New Jersey Libertarian Party  
P.O. Box 56  
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**TO:**

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