

## **PREMISE**

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

#### **NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

P.O. BOX 333, ASBURY PARK, N.J. 07712

Editor: Lydia Longinotti

Vol. 1 No. 11

September 1973

#### PRESS CONFERENCE A FLOP

After sending out invitations and follow-up reminders to over 135 media representatives (NY, NJ and Phila. TV, radio and newspapers), absolutely no one from the press or TV showed up for the press conference at the Robert Treat Hotel. About 15 libertarians from NY & NJ were the only ones to hear Goodson announce his candidacy and declare his intention to sign a political contract prior to the election (a copy of the speech is included with this issue).

Suggested reasons for the disappointing showing include the following:

- 1) We sent the speech out with the invitation, thus relieving everyone of the necessity of attending the conference.
- 2) The conference was held on a Saturday afternoon, when news staffs are somewhat thin.
- 3) NY TV just hasn't been covering <u>any</u> of the candidates yet.
- 4) NJLP announcements just aint earthshaking news.

We plan one more press conference just before the election, when Goodson signs the contract, and will correct as many of our errors as we can think of. This time, however, we'll be a bit better psychologically prepared for the worst.

Small consolations: because no one attended the press conference, no one knew how poor the results were. Anyway, the press conference was reported in at least two NJ papers, and portions of the speech were quoted over Newark and NY radio stations. Feedback is important if we are to put our efforts in the most fruitful areas, so if you see or hear something about Goodson in the media, drop us a line (or send us the clipping).

THE BASIC PREMISE OF A FREE SOCIETY IS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS OWN HAPPINESS.

#### PICNIC A SUCCESS!

Thanks to the hard work of our treasurer (and fund-raising chairman) Larry Totams, and the assistance of party chairman Robert Steiner, the Goodson-for-Governor Picnic was a great success. Over 40 people attended, about half of whom were not members of the party. The quantity of food defied the beef shortage, and although clouds threatened throughout the day, no rain was forthcoming.

The event was a windfall for the campaign chest, as it resulted in a total of \$180 in contributions. Goodson was present for about two hours, and in his brief departing remarks, he cautioned against overoptimism "in view of the rising demand amongst libertarians for tuxedoes and gowns", and thanked Totams for his "extraordinary effort".

#### meeting

There will be a meeting of the NJLP on Thursday, September 20 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lion's Den in Hillside. A map will be forwarded at a later date. Guest speaker will be Mr. Richard Solyom, founder and first president of the Federation of New Jersey Taxpayers. Mr. Solyom, who spends a good deal of his time studying the political process in Trenton, has an abiding interest in fiscal sanity.

NOTES.....John Goodson's positions on several major issues will be included in a booklet to be offered by the League of Women Voters in Sept..... An ad for Goodson in Ais A Newsletter brought several contributions. Good results are anticipated from an ad which will be in REASON magazine next month, and from the inclusion of the pamphlet with next month's LP NEWS.....The NY Free Libertarian Party has completed their petition effort with more than 20,000 signatures (7,500 required), so mayoral candidate Fran Youngstein should make the ballot. FLP'er Gary Greenberg is the only one opposing Brooklyn D.A. Frank Hogan, who is old and very ill.....NJLP membership grew by more than 20% in August, stimulated by campaign activities. List of occupations of members includes teacher, artist, lawyer, writer, Doctor, student, engineer, housewife, accountant, architect, developer, journalist and others.....Goodson, offered TV time on public TV, turned it down on principle, saying in a press release "it is immoral to expect the taxpayers to help pick up the tab for my campaign"....Recent mailing to 400 selected New Jerseyans was very successful in that it more than paid for itself in memberships, donations, and subscriptions to PREMISE, which makes the 3000 name list offered by Books for Libertarians look very inviting. Total cost of mailing to 3000 New Jerseyans would be about \$600..... Goodson's answers to issue questions will be broadcast over radio stations WPST in Trenton and WHWH in Princeton sometime between 7:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. one day per week, starting Sept. 10th..... First National City bank economists announced in August that NYC's welfare system actually punishes those who wish to work. The bank said that "the lot of the family earning \$7,000 is only modestly improved over that of the family earning no income.... NJ State Department of Environmental Protection has proposed an outright ban on DDT and 10 other toxic and persistent pesticides, and for stringent regulations to restrict the sale, use and storage of 92 other chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and rodents. The mosquitoes have a very strong lobby.... The NY Times (of all papers) Sunday Magazine has started a series on regulatory agencies. The first article, in the Aug. 12th edition, was on the Civil

Aeronautics Board and even suggests that Free Enterprize should be given a chance, noting that the unregulated, intrastate air-fare between Los Angeles and San Francisco comes to 4.6 ¢ per mile, while

the regulated fare from Boston to Washington works out to 9.9¢ per mile.....NJ Taxpayer's Association announced in August that the state's indebtedness rose to nearly \$1.15 billion in the fiscal year that ended June 30th, an increase of \$125 million over the previous year.....NJ politicians drooling over ways to spend \$200 million state budget surplus that Cahill apparently planned to cushion his gubernatorial bid.... Bob Steiner and Lydia Longinotti were interviewed by Toms River Reporter. Result was an extended front page story (reprint is included with this newsletter). Circulation of Reporter is over 60,000.

THE HORSE'S MOUTH
(Although some may prefer a ruder title)

I had never realized just how totally unimportant we still are until
our non-press conference (mentioned
elsewhere in PREMISE). When it got to
be 2:15 (15 minutes <u>after</u> the scheduled beginning) and still no press
corps, it began to dawn on me...
(a) they're not gonna come and (b) why
the hell should they? So, it occurs to
me that we should try to get whatever
press coverage we can until we matter.
After all, if they don't know we exist,
how will they know we're correct?

In getting our message across, we'll have to refer back to the hospers or Rothbard books. If you can't find justification there, then don't say it. Indeed, the whole recent brouhaha over "nature" would have been avoided if closer attention had been paid; on page 369 of <u>Libertarianism</u>, Hospers QUOTES Rothbard in asking the rhetorical question "Which are more important, people or trees?" (Sound familiar?)

As for strategy, and the possibility of "alienatng" voters, I quote Rothbard from For A New Liberty; "He who confines himself to calling for a two percent reduction in taxes helps to bury the ultimate goal of abolition of taxes altogether....If libertarians refuse to hold aloft the banner of the pure principle, of the ultimate goal, who will?"

#### LIBERTARIANISM AND WILDLIFE

- Tom Palven

Government policy toward wildlife has been one of "wildlife manage-ment", which is professionally defined as maintaining a sustained annual yield of wildlife. This is contradictory in that the beauty of wildlife is that it is wild, and it should not be handled as a farm crop. Another shortcoming of public policy is that it discriminates against those species, regardless of their natural functions and aesthetic values, if they cannot be eaten. Government predator control has resulted in the extermination of thousands of wolves, coyotes, and cougars, and a bounty on foxes still

exists in New Jersey.

While public policy has been designed to benefit the hunter, the results have been otherwise. Cost of a license has increased one dollar per year for several years, until it costs a resident \$7.25 this year without any better hunting opportunities. As for the hunting itself, one might ask whether the deer herd would be exterminated if there weren't public laws to manage it. The answer is no. Presently all the deer in New Jersey belong to "the state". If private landowners were allowed to manage their own herds, we would see a greater variety of services available. Some would probably be managed as in Germany where guides take hunters out to shoot specific animals for a fee, and a healthy breeding stock is maintained. Other areas would be managed less intensively, and areas owned by such private groups as the Audobon Society would probably not be managed, but protected. Another advantage of this system is that hunters would pay for the opportunities they get, and those wishing to shoot squirrels or run their dogs after rabbits or foxes would have to pay an exhorbitant license fee.

In New Jersey, due to the usual "bucks only" regulations, we have seen an increasing number of fully mature antlerless buck mutations. Since these animals are not shot by hunters, they breed and increase unchecked. Thus we can foresee a time when no male deer carry large racks. If lands were managed privately, this could at least be averted in some areas.

Fishing license fees have also risen to \$7.25 in New Jersey to support an expanding bureaucracy. Fishermen must pay an additional fee if they wish to fish in water polluted with government raised, liver-fed trout. And panfish in the state are underutilized because no one wants to pay \$7.25 to go out one morning in the summer to catch a few bluegills and perch. The fishing has been hurt throughout the nation by the Army Corps of Engineers' continuing policy of straightening and channelling streams for the avowed purpose of flood control. But while water runs out of the smaller rivers faster and less small floods occur, this policy has directly caused the disastrous flooding of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Anyone wishing to spend a night of wilderness camping in New Jersey will find it impossible under present government policy. Private campsites are not allowed to have wilderness camping. They must have so many toilets, showers, watchmen, etc., and they must pass the cost on to campers. In public

areas, you must camp in specific, concentrated campsites.

If public areas such as the national parks were privately owned, they would not be turned into Disneylands because public pressure- supply and demand- would not warrant it. At this time everyone, including the poor, pays taxes to support wilderness they may never see, while those wishing to enter the parks must pay an additional fee. Private ownership is again more equitable.

Thus it can be stated emphatically that campers, sportsmen, and other nature lovers would have a much greater opportunity to enjoy the outdoors

if there were less government interference.



#### CULTURAL BAROMETER

Lest any of us think that reason is about to slay the dragon of mysticism and return the Princess of Life to her castle, we offer the following:

-from an Andrew Sarris essay on Orwell (reprinted in the NY Times Book Review)...."To be inhibited by lucidity, clarity and moralism as Orwell was inhibited was to be denied the glazed lyricism of mystics, magicians and madmen."

-from Russell Barnard, publisher of "Harper's", on R. H. Tawney's Religion and the Rise of Capital-ism....."Something Tawney says in his book sums up in a few words what I had in mind in the first place: Few tricks of the unsophisticated intellect are more curious than the naive psychology of the businessman, who ascribes his achievements to his own unaided efforts in bland unconsciousness of a social order without whose continuous support and vigilant protection he would be as a lamb bleating in the desert"."

\* \* \*

An item of interest from U.S.

News and World Report (Sept. 3)...

"The Internal Revenue Service is alarmed over the "vast number" of people who have stopped filing income tax returns. Johnnie M. Walters, former IRS Commissioner, calls the trend "frightening". Last year, the IRS spotted 4.1 million "potential nonfilers", of whom only 1.4 million later filed required returns."

#### PREMISE

is published monthly by the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Views represented in articles and letters are not necessarily positions of the Party. Single issue price is \$.25, a one year subscription is \$3.00. A limited number of back issues are available at \$.25 each. Articles and letters for publication should be received at least 2 weeks before the end of the month for publication in the next month's PREMISE.

#### STATE TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES-THE MALARIA MOSQUITOE

With the state proposing an outright ban on DDT (and other pesticides), it is worthwhile to print some appropriate quotes on the subject:

"DDT has done no harm to humans, and the tales of damage to fish and bird life appear to have been woefully exaggerated."

> -Dr. Philip Handler Pres., Nat. Academy of Sciences

"DDT is one of mankind's major triumphs. Probably no other compound, not even penicillin, has saved so many lives. It has been the principle insecticide in the control of insect vectors of yellow fever, typhus, elephantitus, bubonic plague, cholera, dengue, sleeping sickness and dysentery...In Ceylon where the age old scourge of malaria was virtually eradicated by DDT, the spray program was abandoned for political, emotional and unsound reasons. Within a few years the incidence of malaria increased to about one million in a population of eleven million...no harm (to humans) has been observed from its use except for a few isolated cases of accidental consumption of a large quantity or attempts at suicide."

-Dr. Walter Ebeling
Dept. of Entymology, UCLA



GOODSON FOR GOVERNOR!

IN YOUR <u>HEAD</u> YOU KNOW HE'S RIGHT!



#### TEXT OF SPEECH BY JOHN A. GOODSON AUGUST 25, 1973

We are always hearing that government is run by just plain folks who are constantly looking out for our best interests. In fact, if we seem to be a mite wary of their efforts, we are looked upon with suspicion. Politicians tell us that government gives us the freedom to pursue our own interests while protecting us from the predators. This is what government should be, but it certainly is not what it has become.

Take any newspaper and remove all the items that pertain to the government and its activities; about all that's left are the margins. And it gets worse all the time. In this campaign we have heard my opponents detail scheme after scheme to deal with one pressure group after another, but what is the basis of all their plans? They mean, of course, to spend YOUR money for you. After all, you couldn't be trusted to manage your own affairs, now could you?

We are surrounded by unnecessary government. It is curious that the state government should increase in size some 500% over a period of time when the population increased only 20%. We were told- for twenty years- that roads would make the state and country wonderful. Well, we have the roads now and politicians seem amazed that people bought cars to use on them. At the moment we are told that public mass transit is necessary to solve the problem of the cars. The government creates the problem, blames the voter and then uses the problem to increase its power.

We were told that a bond was necessary to build more state colleges. Now there is a glut of teachers, and the state tells us that vocational training is the answer. We are told that we may not fully develop our own property so that swamp animals may live and breed in comfort. We are told not to gamble, while the state raises millions of dollars via the lottery. We are told what we may or may not read, what movies we may or may not see, and we are forced to pay a levy every time we make an economic exchange, one of the most human of actions. After the sales tax, can taxes on reading, writing and speaking be far behind? And now, after this breathtaking record of waste, non-accomplishment and abuse of power, we are told that what the government needs is more money, and the way to raise it is to punish the best amongst us, those who produce the most, by adopting a graduated income tax. The end is not yet in sight.

It should be apparent by now that what we need is not <u>more</u> government, but much, much less. It's time for New Jersey citizens to tell the government just whom the money belongs to. It does <u>not</u> belong to some failing industry, or some education czar. It does <u>not</u> belong to the producer of some state TV station that virtually no one watches, and it certainly does <u>not</u> belong to some transportation planner whose dreams of a totally asphalt New Jersey have now shifted to a monorail in every garage.

The money, every penny of it, does belong to the people who earn it, and it will be the object of a Libertarian administration to reduce the expense of the state government so that the money will not pay for the mistakes of bureaucrats and social planners. The only function of the government should be the protection of the rights of the individual against the use of force by others. And we intend to return government to its proper role.

These are ideas to which the voters of New Jersey will, I believe, be receptive. But the record of politicians in keeping their campaign promises is a sorry one. For this reason, and because politicians should be just as responsible as anyone who sells a service, I will sign a contract before the election which will legally bind me to the positions I take during the campaign. I urge the other candidates to do likewise. It is time that "truth-in-packaging" came to those who are so willing to apply it to others.

Most importantly, I challenge all politicians to recognize the obvious truth that the more governments do, the worse things become; that when governments begin by doing things for you, they inevitably end up by doing things to you. If you believe that your life is not something to be managed by bureaucrats, but is something to be enjoyed, then I urge you to vote for me, John A. Goodson of the Libertarian Party, for Governor of New Jersey.



# Libertarianism: the death of bureaucracy?

By KURT LODER

ASBURY PARK — The Libertarian Party would like to abolish welfare, taxes, public schools, Social Security, gun controls, county and state bureaucracies, most of the federal government, and all laws regulating commerce and restricting total laissez faire capitalism.

Obviously a bunch of right wing waterheads, right?

But the Libertarians would also legalize all drugs, voluntary sexual relations, pornography, gambling, prostitution and suicide attempts, prohibit military conscription (and "alternate national service") even in time of war, grant complete amnesty to all current draftdodgers (and deserters who were drafted), and refuse diplomatic recognition to such currently recognized totalitarian states as Greece. Spain and South Vietnam.

Obviously a bunch of pinko perverts, right? Or what?

Most people have never heard of the Libertarian Party, and yet their candidates finished third in last year's presidential election. The party's platform

basically a strict construction of the original, unamended U.S. Constitution

is calmly reasoned, and yet many people would be horrified by some—if not most—of their proposals. Wild-eyed anarchists and button-down—businessmen have often found common ground in Libertarianism, and yet to most established politicians—Democrat and Republican alike—the very idea is anathema.

What's going on here?

Libertarianism is a sociopolitical philosophy based on
the economic doctrine of
laissez faire (French for "let
do," or leave alone). Laissez
faire was first formulated by
a group of 18th century
French intellectuals called
the Physiocrats, as a
reaction against European
merchantilism. Whereas
mercantilist nations such as
France and England iden-



John A. Goodson tified money with wealth —

imposing controls on industry and trade in order to strengthen the state, and exploiting their colonies the Physiocrats contended that all wealth originated with the land, and that agriculture alone would multiply wealth. Therefore, they argued, if the total 'economic process' based on agriculture - were to follow its natural course. taxation should be levied on land alone. It was, as one writer put it, "an argument not without charm for indust; alists.

Physiocracy was doomed by the Industrial Revolution, but the Physiocrats - who are credited with evolving the first complete system of economics were a tremendous influence on other economists, particularly Adam Smith (1723-90), the father of classical economic theory, who developed the idea that free trade, motivated by selfinterest, would be far more effective at regulating economic life than the state. Even that great Scot. however, admitted that at least some restrictions on free trade might ultimately be necessary

The rise of vast cartels in Germany in the 1870s seemed to prove Smith's exception well-taken, as did the fester of monopolies in America (which led to passage of stiff federal anti-trust legislation.) But this most persistent argument against total laissez faire that it ignores the demonstrated tendency of Big Business to congeal into price-fixing, monopolistic monstrosities — is dismissed by many Liberatrians.

"After all," says Lydia Longinotti, editor of "Premise," the New Jersey Libertarian Party's monthly newsletter, "we're living in the golden age of monopolies right now — just look at the post office and the telephone company. True capitalism has never really been tried in this country."

"The telephone company is a government-coerced monopoly," adds state party chairman Robert Steiner. "You can't start another one, and so it's as inefficient as all other government-run institutions. We feel that you should not reward inefficiency."

Libertarians disagree among themselves about the extent to which economic laissez faire is desirable: some argue for a completely unregulated economy, while others feel that vestigial government control may be required check to monopolism. All agree, however, that the principle of laissez faire is one that can be broadly applied to all levels of government. The size, scope and influence of the state upon American society, they feel, must be severely reduced.

The Libertarian Party was founded (as "the party of Principle") in Westminster, Colo. in December 1971. Many of their positions derive from the work of Russian-born novelist Ayn Rand, whose books ("The Fountainhead," "Atlas Shrugged," "The Virtue of Selfishness," "Capitalism, the Unknown Ideal") have elevated laissez faire into a way of life. Miss Rand, however, supported President Nivon in the last

election, while the Libertarians ran their own candidates: Dr. John Hospers. director of the School of Philosophy at the University of Southern California, and Antoinette Nathan, an Oregon TV producer. They weren't seriously expecting to win, but they did come in third after a disgruntled Virginia elector bolted from the Nixon-Agnew slate and voted Libertarian. (Mrs. Nathan thus became the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote.) And another party candidate, Steve Syms, was elected to Congress from

Today there are over 30 state Libertarian Party organizations, and while they don't foresee a Libertarian revolution in the near tuture, they do hope to effect a "philosophic revolution."

"We hold that each individual has the right to exercise sole dominion over his own life," says the party platform, "and has the right to live his life in whatever manner he chooses, so long as he does not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live their lives in whatever manner they choose."

Specifically, the party's positions are as follows:

Freedom of speech and the press—"We pledge to oppose all forms of censorship, whatever the medium—involved. Regulation of broadcasting can no longer be tolerafed. We shall support legislation to repeal the Federal Communications Act, and to provide for private ownership of broadcasting rights. We support repeal of pornography laws."

Protection of privacy All forms of government snooping on private citizens "should be restricted to activity which can be shown beforehand, under high. clearly defined standards of probable cause, to be criminal and to present immediate and grave langer to other citizer National Census - f other government come lations of data on citizen should be conducted on a strictly voluntary basis

the Unknown Ideal") have elevated laissez faire into a way of life. Miss Rand, however, supported President Nixon in the last.

### Libertarianism: A Revolution?

compulsory arms registration."

-Volunteer army - "We oppose the draft, believing that the use of force to require individuals to serve in the armed forces or anywhere else is a violation of their rights... We recommend a complete review and possible reform of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (and) further pledge to work for a declaration of unconditional amnesty for all who have been convicted of, or who now stand accused of, draft evasion and for all military deserters who were draftees.

Diplomatic recognition -"The United States should establish a scheme of recognition consistent with the principles of a free society, the primary principle being that, while individuals everywhere in the world have unalienable rights, governments which enslave individuals have no legitimacy whatsoever.

Crime We hold that no action which does not infringe the rights of others can properly be termed a crime. We favor the repeal of all laws creating 'crimes without victims' now incorporated in federal, state and local laws such as laws on voluntary sexual relations, drug use, gambling and attempted suicide."

"We would also do away with the National Labor Relations Board," says Steiner. "Forced arbitration of labor disputes is not a legitimate function of government. Union membership should be voluntary. as should an employer's decision to recognize a union. Unions unfortunately breed the idea that labor and management are natural enemies; they forget that the ultimate employer of both is the consumer

"We would also eliminate the Federal Reserve Board. which was created in 1913, and almost immediately gave us the Depression. After all, you can't really create money out of thin air, can you?



Reporter Photo Sharkey

#### Laissez faire

Libertarians Robert Steiner and Lydia Longinotti: Right-wing waterheads? Pinko perverts? Up with the individual, down with everything else.

"Our position is that the Constitution is probably the best political document ever drafted. The sole function of government should be to protect individual rights, and we extend this to include protection against fraud. The only government we really need is the courts, the police and the armed forces. In our society you are either a producer or a parasite, and vet we support this huge state bureaucracy that doesn't produce anything.

"Look at the Parkway, for example. Here the government realized that tolls were too high, that they were taking in more money than they needed. But did they lower tolls, or return the profits to the consumer? No: they built the Garden State Arts Center!

Steiner and other Libertarians argue that private enterprise would be more efficient at running virtually all programs currently

administered bv the government, from public schools to Social Security. "This constant government practice of playing up to minority groups and special interests must stop. The government is now in a position to grant special favors, which is why we have so many lobbies and presure groups. This country is morally bankrupt."

The Libertarians realize, however, that the sweeping changes they advocate may seem anarchic -- maybe even un-American -- to many voters. "At this point it's an educative process,' says Steiner. "We want to build the party and try to make a showing."

The Libertarian candidate for governor of New Jersey is a high school guidance counselor from South Plainfield, N.J. named John A. Goodson. Goodson is opposed to everything from welfare and taxes to flood control and mass transit subsidies. As he recently told a reporter: "If someone tells me he has a right to my money because he has two kids or ten kids or a convertible or whatever. I object to that. Who gave him that right!

'Goodson's campaign will only be ten weeks long," says Mrs. Longinotti, "as opposed to the lengthy period usually devoted to political slob berings by other candidates. Goodson will also issue a contract this tall, it be doesn't tultill this contract. doesn't keep his campaign promises, in other words hen any citizen will be able o use this contract as grounds for a civil suit to remove him from office We'd like to see the other candidates try that

"Mayor Bradway down in-Atlantic City promised to raise \$200,000 for the first candiate who came out in favor of legalized gambling," says Steiner with a grin. "Well, John Goodson is in favor of legalized gambling, so we sent Bradway a letter asking for the \$200,000. We still haven't heard from him."

"Above all," says Mrs. Longinotti, "we need funds and people who are interested in working for the party.

The New Jersey Libertarian Party's address is Box 333, Asbury Park 07712, N.J., for those who may be interested, and all donations are - irony of ironies - tax deductable

#### **NEW JERSEY** LIBERTARIAN PARTY

P. O. BOX 333 ASBURY PARK, N.J. 07712