
Libertarian Strategy Gazette

Volume 3 Number 2

For Our Electronic Supplement See Page 9

February 2003

A Libertarian Presidential Campaign A Modest Proposal

...George Phillies

2004 is coming. Soon the Presidential campaign season starts. Enormous opportunities loom before us.

The Republican-Democratic parties now wage open warfare on the entire Bill of Rights. The Defense Against Terrorism Act, the Homeland Security Administration aka Heimatlandsicherheitsampt, Total Information Administration, warrantless searches, military tribunals aka drumhead courtmartial, and rendition (in which foreigners are arrested in one foreign country and transported to another where they can be tortured by American puppets without judicial interference) are all parts of the Democratic Republican effort to jettison our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Republican Democratic War on social liberties, symbolized by Republican attacks on abortion rights, the Defense of Marriage Act, imprisonment for users of marijuana for medical reasons, and Democratic attacks on gun ownership and the publication and ownership of books on firearms and explosives are further parts of the same strategy.

The Republicans have control of Congress, and have shown that while the Democrats are the Party of Big Government, the Republicans are the Party of Truly Humongous Government. Under Bill Clinton and a Democratic Congress, Federal spending grew. Under George Bush and a Republican Congress, Federal spending has exploded upwards. Bill Clinton gave us a budget surplus and welfare reform, taking millions of Americans off the dole. George Bush spent that surplus, several times, and gave us the 'No Child Left Behind' law, under which a jot of Federal aid expands into Federal Control over every part of public education.

We are the party of small government and human freedom--the only party of small government of small government and human freedom. We have a wonderful product to sell, if only we can sell it.

Part of that sales effort should be our 2004 Presidential Campaign. A Presidential campaign is one more way to ensure that every voter has a real chance to VOTE LIBERTARIAN. Across America, voters have committed to our Party by registering as Libertarians. It is the Party's duty to return that loyalty by giving them Libertarians for whom they can vote.

We have multiple opportunities to mangle that sales effort.

[A Libertarian Presidential Campaign] *(Continued on page*

A Reality-Based Model for the Libertarian Party A Draft Document for the Libertarian Strategic Planning Caucus

By John D. Famularo

Part Two

How can the LP succeed in its mission?

The voting public must respect and trust our candidates. once elected, our LP public officials must quickly gain credibility and demonstrate expertise in order to implement and administer Libertarian policy reforms.

Before our candidates can achieve political success, they must first have the necessary prerequisites for the job. They need to have the basic personality, social and political skills.

Then, our candidates to have real, definitive solutions for the of interest to the voting public. Our candidates must make a convincing case for the implementation and administration of new policies.

The general mission of the entire Libertarian Movement (LM) is to achieve a Libertarian society. Various elements of the LM either contribute to or detract from the movement's overall success. Each organization within the LM has a particular mission and should have a sound strategy to achieve that mission, if those organizations are serious about success.

All organizations engage in similar functions such as membership recruitment, fund raising, advertising, market research, internal education, stakeholder relations, public relations, volunteer recruitment, product development, accounting, and sales. However, these functions don't determine the strategy. Each group's mission determines its strategy. Strategy then determines the tactics. Tactics in turn determine priorities and the details of how particular functions are designed, performed and managed.

Can we outspend them in advertising? Of course not. Can we field more candidates than they do in the near future? Not

[A Reality-based Model] *(Continued on page 3)*

This Month's electronic supplement
<http://www.cmlc.org/cmlc/pubs/lsg0203.pdf>

**Libertarian Party Does Attain Smaller
Government
Boycott Opponents of the Second Amendment
More on the Boycott**

(Continued from page 1) [A Libertarian Presidential Campaign]

A right-wing Presidential candidate primarily attached to financial issues, who does not vehemently support our Party's social freedom issues, cannot credibly represent our Party to the voters.

A Presidential candidate whose staff was deeply involved in our last decade of scandal cannot credibly represent himself to our members.

We need a candidate who will campaign for Liberty and Freedom, and by and by also for lower taxes and less government. That candidate must have clean hands, and so must his entire staff.

What then should a Presidential campaign do, and how much should it cost?

First, a campaign should spend most of its money on the campaign for the Presidency, not the campaign for the nomination. In 1998-2000, Harry Browne correctly proposed that a Libertarian Presidential campaign should accumulate a large war chest to launch its campaign. If he had done what he had said, my next book *Funding Liberty* would not be about to appear from Third Millennium Press (3mpub.com/phillies).

In 2004, Libertarians should demand that any Presidential nominating campaign set aside at least one dollar in two for its National Campaign. That demand should be verified using an external audit of FEC filings and the use of escrow accounts. Campaigns that refuse to file with the FEC or disclose their finances, and that refuse to escrow half their income, should be recognized as feeding troughs for campaign consultants.

Second, the Presidential Campaign should be based on reality. Our candidate *will lose*. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts. Therefore, her campaign's efforts should go to advertising our Party, its stands, and building recognition and support for our candidates. Don Gorman and the old Pennsylvania Party have explained how to do this. A candidate builds support by travelling from place to place, giving speeches, doing libertarian street theater, and appearing with our local candidates to build their volunteer base and public recognition.

How much will this cost?

First, we will have a Presidential and a Vice Presidential campaign. We should give both of them support for a continuous five-month campaign. The last Presidential campaign disgraced itself by giving our Vice Presidential candidate, Art Olivier, under \$1000 for expenses. We should not permit this to repeat.

Realistically speaking, each candidate needs a major domo to lead them from place to place, control scheduling, and

handle all the operational issues associated with campaigning, leaving the candidate free to campaign. That's a hundred days on the road for four people, plus travel expenses. Even allowing some planning on the campaign itinerary, miscellaneous expenses take this to \$100,000 or more. Second, the last campaign demonstrated that with advance planning hotel fundraisers do pay for themselves, and give you a chance to bring Libertarian activists and potential activists together. Figure three of these a week for the last three months, or around 80 of these counting the VP, at around \$4000 each. That's \$320,000, but it is self-financing.

Third, lawn signs and bumper stickers are cheap in bulk, and give uncommitted members a chance to do a little for the party. You mail a sticker to every party member with a request for a little cash and if the post problem can be solved you mail a lawn sign, too. (Someone should price car window sun screens, which are bumper stickers writ large.) This is actually cheap...\$100,000 is overkill. The signs stress the **Party** and our most excellent **Libertarian Issues**, not the *candidate*.

Fourth, we need another dozen or 16 Libertarians willing to commit weekends for three months of the campaign. These are not any Libertarians. These are credible professional Libertarians who would be credible cabinet secretaries, people who we can bill as the potential Libertarian Secretary of Defense (Charles Wilhoit, Doug Ohmen), Secretary of Health and Human Services (Mary Ruwart), Secretary of Homeland Defense (ummm, L. Neil Smith? Aaron Zettelman? "Real Homeland Defense, not Homeland Disarmament"). Bumper Hornberger comes to mind for Attorney General. Dave Hollist of California gets credit for current work on rounding up such people.

An interesting option for the people I just listed is the mid-90's proposed (by a female Libertarian) "all chicks ticket" in which we deliberately recruit a team composed only of qualified women.

What will the Libertarian Cabinet Secretaries do? They will campaign for our party, representing credible people for critical jobs. They will appear in front of appropriate Professional Associations, Chambers of Commerce, local and regional television outlets, rallies, and other events where news is made, and champion our Party's candidates and stands on the issues. They may not be able to do this full time, but they will hit the entire country. The Libertarian Cabinet Secretaries need \$100,000 or so for travel expenses for their part-time campaigns. There are also miscellaneous expenses, another \$100,000.

Finally, there is the nominating campaign. If you spend over \$100,000 in pursuit of our Presidential nomination, Libertarians should conclude that you are incompetent and refuse to support you. I include in the \$100,000 one or two letters to the Party membership, multiple letters to dele-

gates, half-page LP News ads, and candidate travel for the Presidential and Vice Presidential hopefuls.

For this campaign, I identify six potentially paid staffers: two majordomos to travel with the President and Vice President candidates, two persons to handle money and base operations, a volunteer coordinator, and an press secretary/electronic outreach officer. Counting FICA and health insurance, these are \$50,000 a year or less each positions, for an average half year full time equivalent each, or \$150,000.

What about fund raising? Each mailing to the national Party membership costs \$15,000 or so, depending on how many former members you approach. I believe that the campaign should announce in advance how many of fundraising letters it will do, and **keep its promise**, as bizarre as that sounds for a Libertarian Presidential campaign. The last fundraiser, in early October, is headlined "**This is your last chance to support our Presidential candidate!**".

At least one letter should be used to distribute bumper stickers, as costed under bumper stickers, and if possible lawn signs, to every Party Member. Six letters, one launched the day that the nomination is secured, and some focussed on activist reinforcement not cash in the door, should be adequate. That's under \$100,000. Note that raising the first million is a lot cheaper than raising the last million, so the huge fundraising costs of recent campaigns are avoided. I've rounded up everywhere, so I will now round down: You have just seen a proposed one million dollar Presidential campaign, far less than spent by our last several campaigns, for a stronger campaign. I've even given you a way to identify sham-paigns whose purpose is personal enrichment.

If the million dollar campaign comes to pass, I will do my part. If the Liberty Congressional PAC can raise the money, and if electronic issues are solved, every donor and substantial volunteer to such a campaign will receive from us a free gift in the form of our candidate support disk. In the end, it is up to the Libertarian masses whether they wish to invest in a legitimate Presidential campaign with the serious function of publicizing our party and helping downticket candidates win election, or whether they want an expensive feel-good shampaign to enrich consultants.

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(Continued from page 1) [A Reality Based Model] likely.

Cherished myths.

Many excuses are given for the LP's general lack of political success. These excuses are now regarded by many as "truths", and the LP leadership has formulated its basic strategy upon them. These "truths" are rarely challenged or re-examined within the LP. They are convenient fictions, putting the blame for our relative lack of success on others, instead of upon ourselves. This makes them seductive and convenient to believe. Some of these LP myths posing as truths are:

Myth #1. RESTRICTIVE BALLOT ACCESS LAWS ARE HOLDING US BACK.

I have yet to see the Libertarian candidate who was held back from getting on the ballot when that candidate:

1. Was qualified to serve in that office,
2. Had the desire to serve in that office,
3. Had some history of public service and/or involvement in community affairs.
4. Had a minimal base of support from the voting public. (An initial 15% of the likely voters).

If easy ballot access laws are so important, then why don't we have more candidates and elected officials in New Jersey, where only 800 signatures are required for the highest statewide offices including president? New Jersey county and local races require only 100 signatures -- a 10 man-hour job at most. In New Jersey a few years ago, the LP focused its hopes on the Governor's race. I correctly predicted that he would get less than 2% of the vote. If he put the same amount of effort into a local Freeholder or city council race, we might have a chance of actually winning.

The LP encourages its members to run for offices many levels above their level of competence. Our current Chief Justice William Rehnquist started his political career as a poll watcher for the Phoenix Republican party at the Bethune School polling place in 1964.

Myth #2. THE MEDIA DOES NOT GIVE US THE COVERAGE WE DESERVE.

If anything, the media gives us MORE coverage than we deserve. I have yet to see any credible LP candidate with something "news worthy" to say who did not get adequate free media coverage. Of course, someone on your campaign team must schmooze with the media. Most Libertarian campaign "press secretaries", convey an air of arrogance rather than the people skills that make for good media relations.

It is our candidates that need the publicity, not the party or the press secretary.

Myth #3. MONEY WILL MAKE US COMPETITIVE.

Money has **never** made a non-competitive candidate into a competitive candidate. Money can enhance the chances of a competitive candidate, however, all political victories are determined by the final vote count, which is composed of three parts.

First is the base constituency vote which you must have by definition **before** the campaign begins. This can vary between 20% to 70% historically for the winning candidate, Depending on the number of competitive candidates in the race. **some** money is of course necessary to support the recruiting of volunteers and the basic campaign structure. Initial polls will indicate the potential size of this base, but only those people who actually show up on election day actually count.

Second are the regular voters who are persuaded during the campaign that the candidate "agrees with them", **and** that he can implement his platform if elected, **and** is perceived to have a fair chance of getting elected. This varies between 0% and 25% depending upon the candidate, the constituency and the issues of interest during the campaign..

The third group are voters who never really make up their minds. They vote for the last candidate they met personally, the campaign ad they liked best, or for the candidate seen on a flyer or sign on their way to the polls. This varies between 0% and 7%. This group is influenced the most by money spent on the campaign, This is why money is so important to candidates in competitive races, which are usually won by less than 7% of the total vote cast.

Most races are not competitive.

MYTH #4. WE WILL WIN OVER MOST OF THE VOTERS ONCE THEY HEAR OUR MESSAGE.

This may be true among the 1% of voters who are interested in political philosophy, but the other 99% are motivated by other things. If our mission were to build an effective political philosophy club, then we could concentrate on that 1%. A philosophy club with one million dues paying members could can pay a lot of officers' salaries and put on spectacular dog and pony shows, but it will not win many elections. If our mission is to get people elected and implement libertarian policy reforms, then we need to appeal strongly to the other 99%.

To Be Continued

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To Shrink Government, We Must Get Political

...Aaron J. Biterman

Lately, more and more, I've noticed a problem arising in our libertarian movement; namely, that people talk the talk, but fail to walk the walk. What do I mean?

Take any of these new political zines such as anti-state. com They focus on tearing apart the state, offering important alternatives to the political status quo, and providing a much-needed political dialogue in our society of spend-more politicos and do-nothing citizens. The problem with these new forums of dialogue is that they promote the wrong message to all who view them -- namely, that the Libertarian Party is full of statists, that voting is a waste of time, and that the libertarian message is extreme.

These claims have little, if any, merit to them.

Political Pacifism or Political Activism? To begin, it's pretty easy to claim that you are a radical individualist, live your little life, and be done with it. Much more challenging (and indeed fulfilling) is working -- day by day, hour by hour -- to attain smaller government through the political process that you (as a libertarian) are likely to despise.

The Libertarian Party offers the best hope liberty-lovers have at achieving our ideal society because often the best mechanism to solve partisan problems is partisan politics -- as much as libertarians or individualists would like to hope, wish, or think otherwise.

The foremost problem with anarchists or small 'l' libertarians who claim that the Libertarian Party is an unacceptable method to attain their goals is that many of these same individuals preach and believe that political pacifism will somehow, someday attain the libertarian ideal. Many, of these individuals believe that they have no moral obligation, no societal duty, and indeed no reason to spread the libertarian message. These individuals either do not believe strongly enough in libertarian ideas to market them, are too socially challenged to market them, are too lazy to market them, or are unable to market them due to time constraints.

By not voting, these political pacifists who claim allegiances to liberty reveal chilling characteristics about themselves, among them that they don't believe in the American political process, that they feel no obligation to engage in civic participation, that they do not believe that their vote will count for liberty, that the Libertarian Party is an ineffective method to attain a truly free society, and/or that liberty is not worth the time or effort to cast a vote in favor of. At this point, these individuals have committed political suicide -- at least from a marketing perspective. They will not be able to connect with mainstream American values after they have dismissed voting, dismissed civic participation, and other members of society as delusional. In stark

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contrast to these political pacifists are Libertarian Party members -- active participants in the political process and sales men and women for libertarian ideas to enhance our America and our world. These individuals come from all stripes of life and often vary on political issues. One element binds these freedom-seekers to unite, to work together, to organize, to activate: The innate desire to shrink the size, scope, intrusiveness, and power of government at all levels and return it to the American ideal of individual liberty, personal responsibility, and small government.

The second vivid flaw of these political pacifists is that, by not working on a daily basis to attain liberty, there is only one other option left: Doing nothing but mere complaining. The government did this wrong, the government did that wrong, the government ruined my life, the government enslaved me, the government breached contract, the government took my money, the government did this, that, and the other thing wrong.

While it is likely true that the government did these awful things, the proper vehicle to take out anger and frustration is not to be politically idle, but, rather, to mobilize, organize, and activate for liberty -- to market libertarianism to every man, woman, and child in America. Political activism, not political pacifism, is the vehicle to attain our ideal society.

Unfortunately, small 'l' libertarians, objectivists, free-market capitalists, and anarchists -- in more cases than not -- would rather complain, debate, and philosophize than mobilize, activate, or protest. If this movement is going to grow, it is vital that our subscribers must be open to the ideas of marketing libertarianism instead of merely debating, philosophizing, or complaining.

Why Vote, Why Partisan? Voting, to me, is the opportunity for me to tell my local community, my state, my nation, and perhaps even my world what my vision of government and society really is. We as individuals should not be voting to select the winner. As a practical matter, we vote to tell everyone else which choice best represents the direction which we want the community, state, or nation to go in. When we vote, we gain a certain power that a non-voter doesn't have; namely, the power to really change America through the political process.

Voting can change society. The most successful third party in the past century, the Socialist Party, never won any overly significant political elections. However, their small but growing vote totals were a threat to the Democrats. Thus the Democrats, and then later the Republicans, adopted piecemeal every major tenet of the 1918 Socialist Party platform.

While that was occurring, free-marketeers, capitalists, and individualists at the time were sitting back doing their regular and expected political whining. The Socialists or-

ganized; the Libertarians did not. What was the result of the political mobilization of the Socialists? Look at our country now for the answer.

Voting is a necessity if libertarian victory is to occur, unless, of course, a libertarian revolution were to occur. Such a revolution has never taken place nor do I believe it will. Libertarians simply do not have the numbers, the political intelligencia, the communication skills, or the mobilization skills to effectively organize a pro-liberate revolution. That leaves us with one -- and only one -- vehicle remaining: The Libertarian Party.

The Life of the Party The life of the Libertarian Party rests upon you and I -- believers in political mobilization over political pacifism, less government over more authority, and the marketing of ideas over the debating of theories. The Party has, despite criticism and laziness of its membership, come a long way. The then-radical ideas about liberty that were shaped in a Colorado basement in 1971 are now being seriously debated or, in some cases, implemented by the other political parties. Anyone who has been alive for the latter quarter of the past century knows that Social Security is bankrupt, that the War on Drugs is a sham, and that the U.S.'s intrusive foreign policy is ineffective. These ideas, while mainstream and popular now, were politically radical for years upon years. Now, to many, many Americans, it's very radical to support the status quo Social Security system, the insane War on Drugs, or U.S. hegemonic powers.

The Libertarian Party has been advancing liberty since 1972. So where's the proof of that? Where are the Senators, the Congressmen, and the State Representatives? I'll be frank: The Party currently has none of those. So be it. Those political offices are something that the Party has to look forward to in the future. Something that we must collectively -- as a unified unit -- work to attain.

What the Party does have to show for itself is something that no libertarian think-tank, anarchist, individualist, or objectivist can claim: The power to shrink the size, scope, intrusiveness, and cost of local, state, and federal governments time and time again.

Need some evidence, some proof? For a Full List, see pages 9 and 10 of the electronic edition of **Libertarian Strategy Gazette**, available at <http://www.cmlc.org/pubs/pubs/lsg0203.pdf> Libertarians--not libertarians--can claim responsibility for actually decreasing the size of government. How about that for self-empowerment or political outreach?

Additionally, Libertarian Party activists have also been involved in everything from Proposition 2-1/2 in Massachusetts to Proposition 215 in California. From pushing Social Security privatization and ending the War on Drugs into the mainstream to launching medical marijuana's legalization in eight states, the Libertarian Party has been there protecting your freedom and standing up for your rights

since 1972.

I highly doubt anarchists, small 'l' libertarians, objectivists, or even think-tank heads could claim such a record of consistent and frequent cuts in the cost and size of local, state, and federal governments. Instead, in the past, these individuals have made conscious decisions to be political pacifists, choosing to debate government functions rather than divest government authority.

The past cannot be changed, but the future can. If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten. If you want change, then create change. Don't wait around for Uncle Sam to address your grievances; instead, convince your neighbors that your grievances are justified.

John Quincy Adams said it best: "Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

The history of third parties in America is that they serve as the vanguard for new ideas. It is these ideas that make our world a better one.

So, dear friends, the choice is yours and yours alone. You can either sit back idle while government takes away your children, your family, your job, your paycheck, your friends, and your liberties -- all which are rightfully yours -- or you can step up to the plate by marketing libertarianism for the betterment of yourself, your family, and your society. I urge you to step up to the plate. The Libertarian Party is home base for those who yearn for a better America, society, and world. ...Aaron Biterman

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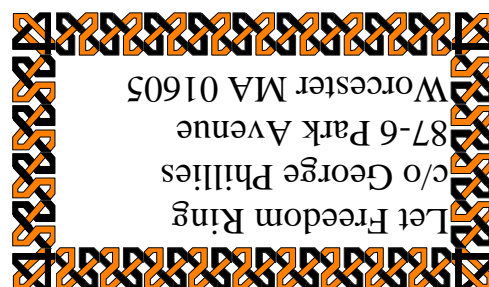
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Libertarian Party Does Attain Smaller Government.

The latest claim I have been hearing frequently is the LP does not achieve smaller government. I beg to differ!

Below I have given some instances when the LP has really cut the size and intrusiveness of government. I can only add to the below list with your help. If you know of another example of the LP really attaining smaller government, please let me know by e-mail at jewishco1@aol.com . Thank you!

Sincerely,
- Aaron Biterman

The Libertarian Party has been advancing liberty since 1972.

For instance, in 1994, LP activist Ted Brown saved the taxpayers of California over \$2 billion by defeating Proposition 1B and 1C. The LP was the only opposition to both measures.

In April, 1999, the San Diego LP, led by longtime anti-tax guru Richard Rider, stopped Proposition L, which would have raised county taxes by \$423 million over five years. On March 2, 1999, San Diego County voters rejected the measure by 50.2% to 49.8%.

In September, 1998, Libertarians in Alachua County, Florida, worked like "ants" to stop a proposed \$200 million sales tax increase -- and handed pro-tax politicians a stinging defeat at the polls.

In 1988 a new half cent sales tax passed in San Diego County. But three Libertarian Party leaders-- Richard Rider, Pat Wright and Steve Currie -- sued to overturn the tax because it passed with a bare majority rather than the constitutionally required 2/3 majority. In 1992 the California Supreme Court shocked local governments statewide by upholding the lawsuit, overturning the tax. The case -- Rider vs. County of San Diego --saved San Diegans over \$3.3 billion (including refunding to taxpayers over \$400 million of previously collected taxes). More important, this landmark decision blocked or overturned local sales taxes illegally passed throughout the state, saving California taxpayers well over \$15 billion.

In November, 1997, the Colorado LP helped to derail a \$16 billion RTD tax increase.

In July, 1998, Libertarians in Toledo, Ohio defeated proposed \$35.4 million sales tax increase to build a stadium for the Toledo Mud Hens, a minor league baseball team. The primary reason for the anti-tax vote: The People Incensed by the Stadium Tax (PIST), an organization formed and staffed by Lucas and Wood County Libertarians, which was the major voice against the plan. "The only opposition to the tax came from PIST, an organization put together by Libertarians," said Ralph Mullinger, former Chair of LP Ohio.

In Alaska, LP member Scott Kohlhaas frequently has prodded

the Alaska ACLU to send letters to local communities threatening lawsuits against unconstitutional juvenile curfew ordinances. The result: Fort Yukon, a city of 600 people, repealed their curfew after receiving a threatening letter last April from the ACLU. Kodiak and Bethel, two other Alaskan towns, plan to enter into negotiations with the ACLU as well.

In Hudsonville Michigan, local LP members and National Youth Rights Association successfully convinced the City Council that repealing the city curfew was better than fighting the activists who opposed it. The curfew was repealed in November, 2000.

A caucus of Libertarian State Representatives in New Hampshire in the early '90s led the fight to roll back higher business taxes.

In New Jersey, LP member and lawyer Elizabeth Macron helped reduce unconstitutional seizures of private property by winning a major legal victory against asset forfeiture laws. Macron single-handedly convinced a state Superior Court that such laws are unconstitutional if property owners are deprived of trial by jury.

In the 1980s, Alaska State Representatives Dick Randolph, Ken Fanning, and Andre Marrou spearheaded the campaign to repeal the State Income Tax, leaving Alaska's citizens to enjoy one of the lowest tax burdens in America today.

In October, 1998, Libertarians in Alabama helped save Jefferson County citizens more than \$697 million in new taxes, thanks to their successful lobbying campaign against a proposed "big-government boondoggle" sales tax hike.

Despite being outspent 28 to 1, North Carolina Libertarians helped defeat a tax-funded major league baseball stadium in Kernersville -- saving taxpayers over \$250 million in July, 1998.

In Houston, Texas, the LP helped stop a bond issue to finance heavy rail and helped stop a stadium proposal (however, the stadium subsidy was passed at a later date in a less awful form).

In May of 1998, Illinois Libertarians played a crucial role in stopping another proposed tax hike -- defeating a \$74.5 million school tax question in the ninth largest school district in the state.

Around 1990 the Santa Cruz County Supervisors (CA) enacted a 7% utility tax on the occupants of the unincorporated portion of Santa Cruz County. A tax initiative was placed on the ballot, with Santa Cruz Libertarians supplying over 10% of the signatures to qualify the initiative. The Santa Cruz LP posted signs on major roads, debated a supervisor on local TV, pitched the Greens, and generally helped to buoy the spirits of the Republicans who spearheaded the effort. Although outspent by government supporters by 20:1, the initiative passed and Santa Cruz County residents have had 9 million dollars back in their pockets, year after year after year.

In November, 1995, Riverside County (CA) Libertarians were victorious in a hard-fought campaign against Measure H, a \$34 million school bond, in the Lake Elsinore Unified School Dis-

tract (LEUSD), that would have raised property taxes an average of \$40 per year. This was the second victory in 1995 for the husband-and-wife team of Gene and Shannon Trosper who co-founded the opposition group Stop Taxpayer Obligation Propositions (STOP). On June 6, 1995, they successfully defeated a similar measure, only to have the LEUSD vote unanimously to place the issue before the voters again.

In January, 2003, a majority of the six member Federal Election Commission agreed to let national political party committees sell their mailing lists to any buyers, including businesses and labor unions. The commission is taking the action in response to a request by the Libertarian National Committee.

In August, 2001, in Tennessee, a state income tax proposal was killed largely by the Libertarian Party. Former Republican Congressional candidate Steve Gill, who hosts the top-rated morning radio program in the state, lavished praise on Libertarians for their efforts. "I can say without hesitation, that if it were not for the support of Libertarian volunteers on the protest line, we would probably have an income tax today," he said. The Libertarian Party and the vast majority of the wise and productive people of the State of Tennessee opposed the tax, but the Governor, members of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and the news media continued to cry for the unconstitutional tax. The Libertarian Party's victory became official on August 7, when the State House and Senate overrode Republican Governor Don Sundquist's veto of the proposed \$19.6 billion budget for fiscal year 2002. The House voted 66-33 to override the veto, while the Senate vote was 19-12. The legislature only voted as such because of the anti-tax demonstrations led by the Tennessee LP.

In Lubbock, Texas, the LP has defeated at least two public-works boondoggles.

LP members don't only fight against public injustice, however. They also fight for private charity, fairness, and justice. LP member Alex Koroknay-Palicz, president of the National Youth Rights Association (NYRA), has convinced over a dozen businesses stemming from Michigan to Maryland to repeal discriminatory policies preventing young people from entering them at times when others are free to enter.

LP member Ilana Freedman spearheaded a campaign to save our world's forests and lands -- from government abuse. Her campaign, the Liberty Land Trust, spearheaded in 2001, has saved thousands of acres of land already. The Liberty Land Trust does not accept public funding or donations from government entities. It is based upon voluntary consent from those who really do care about saving the environment from the largest polluters in the world -- government.

In December, 2001, former LP Florida State Chair John Wayne Smith started a blood donor program in response to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Similarly, elected LP official Roger Fritz started a "Give blood for liberty" program in Iowa in August, 1998.

Additionally, LP activists (current or former) have also been involved in everything from Proposition 2-1/2 in Massachusetts to Proposition 215 in California. From pushing Social Security privatization and ending the War on Drugs into the mainstream to launching medical marijuana's legalization in eight states, the Libertarian Party has been there protecting your freedom and standing up for your rights -- with principled consistency -- since 1972.

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American University College Libertarians,
<http://www.AULibertarians.com>

Boycott Opponents of the Second Amendment

I just saw my first TV ads for H&R Block this weekend. It's their ramp-up season. And now the time is ripe for a little delayed justice.

You may recall last year when H&R Block initiated an "affiliate program" offering to make a donation to the NRA for every NRA member who came in to have his taxes prepared. It's a standard arrangement they offer to any interested membership association.

H&R Block was immediately attacked and threatened by the gun-ban lobby with a March 16th picket. In a craven surrender, Block reneged on their program (and promptly ended up in the middle of a lawsuit from the program organizer).

The banners hailed H&R's cowardice as a "victory," a "stand against gun violence," "a stunning defeat for the gun lobby," and "evidence of the growing power of our movement." The Brady Bunch went to far as to claim that "H&R Block now understands that, by agreeing to this royalty scheme, it was furthering the reckless political agenda of the NRA's leadership."

This is just one of the many messages that H&R Block received last year as a result:

Now, here's the other shoe. If you think you've avoided pain by caving in to a couple hundred loudmouth political bullies with no depth in actual public support -- well then, you're about to learn what pain can really be.

The National Rifle Association currently has over four million members. Does this sound like a lot to you? ...

You just made the mistake of insulting a very large and very politically active group of Americans. When gun owners get upset at you, they stay upset. When gun owners stage a boycott, you stay boycotted.

Think it's an empty threat? Ask Citibank or Dell Computer -- companies that acknowledged that lesson and corrected their offenses. Ask Smith & Wesson or K-Mart -- companies that never did, and paid the price.

I ask you to understand that none of those boycotts were called by the NRA, either officially or unofficially. They were the product of grass-roots gun-owner cooperation, organized via the Internet -- through the very same newsgroups and mailing lists being copied on this message.

Ms. McDougall, as of this week, H&R Block has just joined that select group of corporate offenders. Don't expect to see many gun owners inside your offices from now on.

Now, outside is another story entirely. We won't be there on March 16th. But we WILL be there. And not at just 50 offices, either.

For American gun owners to make our point with H&R Block and similar appeasers, we need to put together enough support from the national internet gun community to show these corporate jellyfish that the promise in that message wasn't a bluff.

We want to arrange for pickets to be placed outside AT LEAST 200 H&R Block offices nationwide on selected dates. We don't need multiple people at each office -- all we need is ONE person at each entrance holding ONE big sign ("H&R BLOCK BREAKS ITS PROMISES") and handing out leaflets to incoming customers explaining the situation ("Here's what H&R Block promised us, and here's how quickly they broke that promise. Now H&R Block promises that if the government questions your tax return, they will come with you to your audit to defend their work. What makes you think they will keep THAT promise either, when the real pressure hits?")

The real power of the picket line is that the target never knows how long you are prepared to be there to ruin his business (a little tip I picked up from "Send This Jerk The Bedbug Letter," a book by an expert in how to complain or protest effectively). By the second day we have people outside Block offices, we'd make the national news, and we'd be making their corporate weasels sweat buckets.

We need to be effectively in their faces during the first three weeks of February. That's the peak season for their walk-in business, so our pickets can interact with as many potential customers as possible.

Yes, that's a short deadline. But this is the sort of effective action that we on the internet have proven we can pull off while the corporate NRA sits back on its ass and does nothing.

So how about it? Is there enough interest in this project to make it a credible, coordinated nationwide protest?

I'm asking for one volunteer coordinator to step up per state. The coordinator's job will be to select at least four popular H&R Block outlets in his state and make sure he has volunteers to picket them during that time period. (We also are willing to hear from individuals who may not want to organize, but are willing to volunteer to picket.)

Don't worry about signs and handouts -- masters for those items will be provided for you and your volunteers.

If you're interested in taking on responsibility for a little non-armchair activism in your state next month -- whether as a coordinator or as an individual picket volunteer -- visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~boycottblock> RIGHT NOW.

Freedom is not free, and the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Help us show the spineless appeasers that GUN OWNERS DON'T BLUFF!

More on the Boycott

again from **CD Tavares Tavares@alum.mit.edu** |
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First off, thanks to each and every one of you for volunteering to picket or to coordinate a state's activity (or both).

Those of you from states that have coordinators will have already received mail putting you in touch with your coordinator. If you have not received such mail, it means that at the moment no one has volunteered to coordinate the picketers in your state. Please consider volunteering to do so -- it would mean a lot to our effort.

(Meanwhile, we've put out a press release and appeal to Gun Week and a few other "timely" gun publications to recruit another wave of volunteers.)

As of tonight, all the picket material masters are available at <http://keepandbeararms.com/boycottblock/materials.html>. They consist of:

- o Two choices of graphics for a 19" x 24" picket sign, and construction instructions.
- o A leaflet for you to hand out to customers entering H&R Block offices. You will need to append the name and address of a conveniently located H&R Block COMPETITOR before duplicating this handout.
- o A sheet of instructions with information for picketers.
- o For those of you who own websites, a banner ad you can use to promote the boycott.

Please download this material and get familiar with it as soon as possible. Use the time between now and February 1 to get your picketing materials ready. Please note that February 1 will be a peak day for Block, and therefore an important day for us to have coverage!

Those of you who have no state coordinators will have to act as "lone Scouts." Choose an H&R Block office according to the criteria listed in the picketing instructions, and set your own schedules according to the priorities given. If possible, persuade

a gun-owner friend or two to help you cover additional dates and times. Constant presence at high-traffic offices is what will make our point most strongly -- much more than a day at one office and a day at another.

And all of you, please send us an update now and again on where and when you have been picketing and what your results have been.

It's up to you volunteer activists to make this picket successful. I am going to do my best to make sure that this is one you can put on your resumes. Thank you, and godspeed.

