

California Freedom

April/May 2006

The official publication of the **Libertarian Party of California**

Art Olivier Busts Prop. 82 Backers Seeks to Have it Removed from CA Primary Ballot

Art Olivier, the Libertarian candidate for governor, is asking Secretary of State Bruce McPherson to remove Proposition 82 from the June ballot due to the illegal use of public money promoting the initiative.

“Although using public funds to influence voters may be a common practice in autocratic governments, it must not be allowed in California.”

California First 5 Commission spent \$23 million in public money for television ads promoting the virtues of preschool while collecting signatures for Prop 82, the Preschool for All Act. Rob Reiner resigned as

Chairman of the California First 5 Commission as a result of the scandal.

“Rob Reiner’s resignation as Chairman of the California First 5 Commission does not reverse the damage First 5 has done to democracy in California” said Olivier, the former mayor of Bellflower. “Although using public funds to influence voters



• **Art Olivier**

Olivier says that the conclusions of those investigations

may be a common practice in autocratic governments, it must not be allowed in California.”

While the commission is being investigated, Olivier says that the conclusions of those investigations

may come too late for California voters. “It’s great to see the Sacramento District Attorney and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee investigate the misuse of \$23 million of Prop. 10 funds by the First 5 California Commission. Regardless of the outcomes of the investigations, if Prop. 82 goes ahead as is, democracy in our state will have

been compromised. Illegally using public funds should never be allowed to determine the outcome of an election.”

Prior to the publicly funded ad campaign that compared a limited program in Chicago that Olivier says is unrelated to the benefits of pre-school, the ma-

• See **Prop. 82** page 3

LP Candidates for Statewide Office Qualify for November Ballot



By **Laura G. Brown**
Candidate for State Assembly

Many excellent Libertarians qualified for California’s November ballot, according to candidate recruitment chair **Ted Brown**.

Gubernatorial candidate **Art Oliver** and Lt. Governor candidate **Lynnette Shaw** head the ticket.

Other Statewide Candidates include **Marian Smithson**, our very own Libertarian Candidate for Treasurer of California. **Ken Weissman**, a practicing attorney is our Candidate for California Attorney General. **Donna Tello**, a tax accountant from San Diego, is running for controller. **Gail Lightfoot**, is running for Secretary of State. Finally, we have **Dale Ogden**, running for Insurance Commissioner.

At least one statewide candidate needs to get 2 percent of the vote to keep the LP’s ballot status in California.

Former Bellflower Mayor and Engineer Olivier hopes his governor’s race will do just that. “California needs to reject Arnold. The Terminator’s budget is 30 percent higher than Davis’ when he got recalled,” Olivier said.

Candidate Chair Brown said, “Arnold is now a tax-and-spend liberal pushing billions in bonds

onto Californians. Art will be the only candidate running on a ‘smaller government’ platform”.

Shaw, a newcomer to the party, owns a legal medical marijuana dispensary in Marin County.

She’ll be focusing on the medical marijuana issue for her Lt. Governor’s race.

Marian Smithson, a CPA, is the Libertarian candidate for State Treasurer. Ms. Smithson was reelected this past November as Treasurer of West Covina.

At least one statewide candidate needs to get 2% of the vote to keep the LP’s ballot status in California.

Dale Ogden, running for Insurance Commissioner, is by far the most qualified candidate for that race.

He’s been an insurance industry consultant and actuary for the past 20 years.

To quote Ogden, “The Insurance Department is 8 times as big as it was before Prop. 103.”

Unfortunately, the Insurance Commissioner’s office is seen as a springboard for the major

parties. They routinely recycle their big government advocates there.

Ogden’s two opponents are seeking the office not based on their skills or experience, but for political reasons.

Why are we not surprised? Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, term-limited out, is seeking the job so he can keep working as

a bureaucrat. Republican Steve Poizner is a wealthy Silicon Valley entrepreneur with no background or experience in the insurance industry. ●

LAURA BROWN of San Gabriel is the Libertarian Candidate in the 49th State Assembly District.

Photos: Olivier for Gov., M. Johnson, M. Smithson, E.C. Brierty, D. Tello, L. Brown, DaleFogden.org

For a discussion of the merits of Proposition 82, the initiative to publicly fund preschool, read “Pitfalls of the Universal Preschool Plan” by Adrian Moore in the March issue of *California Freedom*, page 6, or on the web at www.CA.LP.org.

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Statewide Candidates 2006

Governor
Art Olivier



Lieutenant Governor
Lynnette Shaw



Treasurer
Marian Smithson



Secretary of State
Gail Lightfoot



Controller
Donna Tello



Attorney General
Ken Weissman



Insurance Commissioner
Dale Ogden



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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All news stories, editorials, and announcements are due six weeks prior to the month of publication:
• June 2006: Due 5/01/06
• July 2006: Due 5/20/06
• August 2006: Due 6/20/06

Advertising orders and artwork are due eight weeks and four weeks, respectively, prior to the month of publication. We reserve the right to refuse advertising. All contributions subject to our editorial guidelines.

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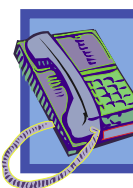
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Do you want to know what your local government is up to? You can see most any public record by taking advantage of the California Public Records Act.



And recently, this fundamental and necessary right has been bolstered further with an amendment to our State Constitution.

With support from 83% of the electorate, Proposition 59 was passed in November 2004, making it part of the State Constitution that government meetings and the writings of public officials and agencies be open to the public. To limit access to the public, government has to show why.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Travis Wright, Washington State's Executive Director, asked me to speak at their Convention in April. I was honored, and of course, accepted. Joining me that weekend was **M Carling**, member of both the California and National Boards of Directors.

At the convention, M formed a coalition with Washington and Oregon States. This is important because now the California LP will have a stronger voice at this year's National Convention.

We have formed a coalition with Washington and Oregon States so the California LP will have a stronger voice at the National Convention.

It's always a treat to discover other state's approaches to growing the pro-Liberty movement. Some are similar to ours, and some very different. The Washington Chair, **Ruth Bennett**, is developing a farm team of elected Libertarians.

What are Your Local Bureaucrats up to? Now You Can Find Out

What does this mean? Any 'writing' means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photographing, digital files including e-mail and every other means of recording.

Do you want to know how much your school district is spending on legal fees? Worried about how much the police department is spending on overtime? Interested in the city manager's employment agreement? Are you curious about the travel expense reports of each board member of the local water district?

You have that right, and it's now very difficult to stop you.

Need to see the appointment calendars for the mayor and city council? Wonder about the results of a poll conducted for the county to see what arguments would be most effective for and against a tax increase? All of this is now possible. You don't even have to provide identification or a reason why you want to know.

Here's just one example of how this could be put to good use. Recently, it was suspected that my local transportation commission was making phone calls during business hours. The allegation was they were calling a consultant to find out

how to pass a sales tax increase for transportation. By examining the agency's phone bills it became clear that indeed phone calls were being made to this consultant.

For more information on how you can use public records to bring more accountability to your local government contact the California First Amendment Coalition (www.CFAC.org).

Many citizens have changed policy, defeated tax increases and won elections by using research as their weapon. This is just one more arrow in your quiver.

— Aaron Starr

Report from Convention of Washington State LP



By focusing on *winnable* races, and getting elected, they reach the first rung on the electoral ladder.

Next step is moving up to higher state offices. It sounds a lot like our California Chair, **Aaron Starr's Operation Breakthrough** as we harvest the "low-hanging fruit" in the Political Orchard.

The Convention's slate of speakers was superb! Two Washington State Supreme Court Justices started things off. Both are strong Constitutional Originalists. To underline this, one donned a James Madison style coat and wig for his talk. Their concern was Washington State is morphing eminent domain into Police Power, re-defining Public Use into Public Purpose.

Adam Summers, spoke twice, first on Transportation, then on Education. Adam appeared as a representative of the **Reason Foundation**. He spoke from Reason's decidedly Libertarian perspective and offered some wonderful solutions.

David Bergland gave an inspiring Dinner speech. Mister Bergland is a past LP National Chair, Presidential Candidate and recent Washington trans-

plant. He spoke of a determined, incremental approach to Liberty. David reminded us there is no Utopia and never will be. He beautifully explained how we could move America toward privatizing Education, health care, transportation. He even offered Libertarian environmental approaches to different situations, including foresting.

Bergland loves to play the 'Libertarian Game' with his acquaintances. Here's how it works: Ask two questions: 1) "What would happen if the Government quit handling that?" and 2) "What would en-

trepreneurs do to fill that vacuum?" Try it, it's fun.

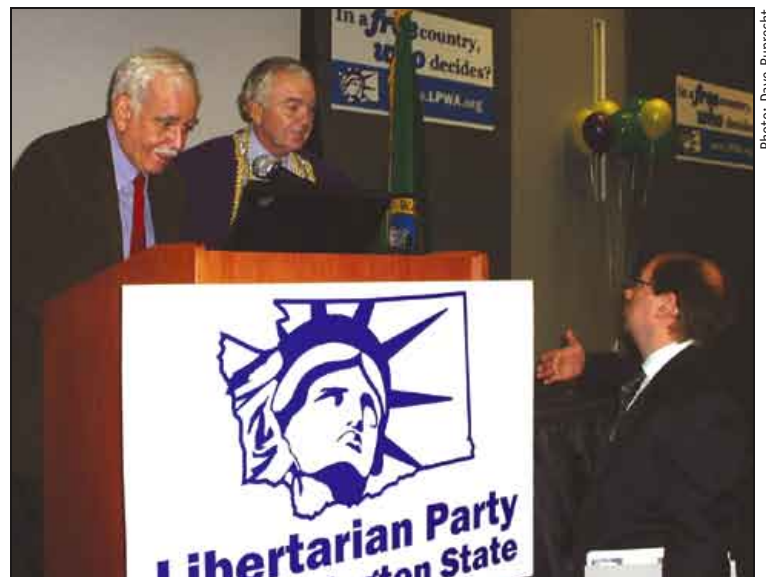
He closed, as do I, with the late **Harry Browne's** final advice to him. "Keep it up, the Future looks Great!"

— Dave Ruprecht
Executive Director

The Libertarian Game

Ask two questions:

- 1) "What would happen if the Government quit handling that?"
- 2) "What would entrepreneurs do to fill that vacuum?"



• LPC's M Carling (right) speaks with Washington State Supreme Court Justices Chambers and Sanders at the Washington State LP Convention in April.

Photo: Dave Ruprecht

California Freedom Builds on a Great Foundation



FROM THE EDITOR



As I present to you my second issue as your Editor, allow me to share my feelings about the past year as Executive Editor. I want to first thank **Elizabeth Briery** for her wonderful contributions as my predecessor. Elizabeth, a very busy woman, was a marvelous editor for us. I hope to live up to the high standard she has set.

How Elizabeth found the time to achieve what she did, I'll never know. We wish her all the success in the world in her new endeavors.

I'd also like to thank **Muffet Brown**, our Graphic Designer, for her accomplishments.

Ms. Brown can be counted on to always go far above and beyond the call of duty. Every month, Muffet comes up with

ideas and solutions that I haven't thought of. She's made the transition over these last few months much better. She's helped me be a better Editor and Executive Editor, guiding me and advising me.

Finally, thank you to my Libertarian friends in California and around the Country. It's been so wonderful to get the kind of responses I have when asking for contributions.

We get so many wonderful contributions; we can't begin to print them all.

In this next year, I'll continue to provide you with a high quality news and opinion magazine. *California Freedom* has a positive and optimistic editorial policy, intended to motivate and inspire.

I have two main goals in 2006 for our Magazine. First

I want to improve the look and feel of the publication. The best option seems to be a change in size and paper, to the more traditional magazine format, as you might see on a store rack.

Of course, this will cost money, which leads us to our second goal. I want to make *California Freedom* self sufficient, with more support from Advertisers and Donors.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact me, or Executive Director **David Ruprecht**.

Thank you again for all of your support. I wish there was space to name everyone that's made *California Freedom* such a success!

— Bruce Cohen
Editor & Executive Editor

Opinion

Attack on Free Speech

At one point in time, it was Republicans who stood up for free speech and opposed the un-American McCain-Feingold campaign finance censorship law. Then one by one, enough of them caved and, thanks to President Bush's signature on the bill, the abomination became law. Now, rather than seeking to undo

or repeal this horrible mess, a majority of Republicans are attempting to *expand* the speech restrictions beyond the major political parties to include so-called independent "527" organizations. It's embarrassing and outrageous.

— Chuck Muth
<http://chuckmuth.com/>

Prop. 82

continued from page 1

majority of Californians did not see the need for publicly financed pre-school. Now Prop. 82 is supported by the majority of Californians according to the latest Field Poll.

If the Secretary of State does not remove Proposition 82 from the ballot, Olivier believes the legislature should reallocate First 5 Commission funds. "In all fairness, the opposition to Prop. 82 should get a matching \$23 million that is earmarked for First 5 to rebut the deceptive ads put out by First 5." Olivier further stated that "If the DA's investigation ultimately leads to convictions, the responsible parties should also pay restitution for their misuse of public funds." ●

Original Press Release by OLIVIER FOR GOVERNOR, April 10, 2006.

Editor's note: Currently 66% of four year olds attend pre-school. If Prop. 82 passes, it is estimated that 70% of the four year olds will attend. Taxpayers will have to spend \$109,000 per student per year for that additional 4%.

For many of the millionaires in California, it may be come more cost effective to buy a second house in Nevada and claim it as their primary residence than to pay our increasingly high income tax rates. Some small business owners will relocate their businesses and others will find tax shelters. Without the income tax from wealthy individuals, our budget deficit gets even larger.

Film Reviews

V for Vendetta

Editor's Note – We received many reviews of this movie, these are excerpts from two of the best.

Individualism vs. Statism

Film Review

By Susan Raffensperger

"People should not be afraid of their governments. Governments should be afraid of their people."

If this tag line doesn't get you out to see *V for Vendetta*, the latest film from the creators of the Matrix trilogy, then let me offer further encouragement.

The film, based on a novel by Alan Moore and David Lloyd, pits the spirit of the individual against a totalitarian British regime of the future. It opens with a nursery rhyme, "Remember, remember the 5th of November...", which commemorates an actual act of treason against the British government by Guy Fawkes in 1605.

From a dark and lonely alley, where the thugs are not necessarily outlaws, emerges the mysterious, charismatic, masked man known only as "V" (played by the wonderful Hugo Weaving—Agent Smith from *The Matrix*) to rescue a young woman named Evey (Natalie Portman). Evey is strangely drawn to V and reluctantly enlisted in his quest to ignite a revolution against the tyranny and corruption of a regime run amok—this despite the fact that she doesn't know who he is and cannot even see the face behind the mask. The mask serves more than to hide V's identity. It becomes a device used by V to spread an idea to the people—the idea that freedom is a choice.

V says it all in this line to the government agent trying to destroy him:

"Beneath this mask there is more than flesh. There is an idea, Mr. Creedy, and ideas are bullet-proof."

Disclaimer: My positive review of this film does not in any way endorse the violence used by the protagonists of the film!



Big "L" Libertarians will Love "V for Vendetta"

Film Review

By Laura G. Brown

...Libertarians who cut their teeth on *Atlas Shrugged* and *1984* will revel in the literate anti-fascist digs delivered with gravitas by the effective Hugo Weaving, who plays V. Even if you're not an anarchist at heart, you find yourself rooting for him.

The other facet of *V for Vendetta* that will appeal to libertarians is the celebration of reason, with many allusions to the power of ideas, backed with fine literature and music. What other anti-hero quotes Shakespeare—half a dozen times? When we first see the masked man's home, and it's lined floor-to-ceiling with books, many of you will think with a stab of recognition: "Looks like my house!" The lovely monologues using 50-point Scrabble words, the floaty jazz music, and the constant mantra that ideas are more powerful than governments will resonate with libertarians. If the movie runs a little long and tends toward heavy-handedness; well...you all know the Barry Goldwater quote about extremism! ●

April Dates

- 2 1770 – American colonists reject all British duties except the tea tax.
- 4 1687– Establishment of King James's Declaration of Indulgence, granting liberty of conscience to Englishmen, including dissenters
- 5 1856 – Booker T. Washington, champion of education and self-reliance, is born on a plantation in Franklin County, Virginia
- 10 1958 – "Tax Freedom Day"
- 13 1743 – Thomas Jefferson born
- 19 1775 – American Revolution begins with the victorious battles of Lexington and Concord.
- 24 1968 – "Tax Freedom Day"
- 30 1978 – "Tax Freedom Day"



Last Minute Update!

Calif. Secretary of State Denies Olivier's Request

April 17, 2006

Art Olivier has received an official response from California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson.

Secretary McPherson will be placing the initiative on the ballot, despite the use of tax-

payer's funds in promoting it illegally.

To quote the Secretary: "... I certainly agree that initiative campaigns should be conducted legally and fairly..."

But he goes on to say: " I am duty bound to submit it to the voters..."

The Libertarian Party of California calls on the Secretary of State to use his Executive Power and disqualify this initiative.

Full text of the letter available at www.ArtOlivier.com ●

Change the Rules and You Can Downsize DC

By Jim Babka

President, Downsize DC Foundation

Government grows every year. It's no accident. That's how the rules are written.

The Constitution used to be the rulebook. The voters used to be the referees. But not anymore.

Congress now writes its own rules. And referees them too. They ignore the Constitution. Ballot access laws, gerrymandering, debate commissions, and campaign finance laws, combined with winner-takes-all elections, make voters irrelevant. The result is re-election rates worthy of a third-world dictatorship, and ever-growing government.

That's why DownsizeDC.org was founded. To change the rules.

How about requiring the government to live under the same rules it just imposed on the private sector?

Americans can disagree with a lot of things about the libertarian agenda, but nearly everyone agrees that Congress ought to read the laws it passes. That's why DownsizeDC.org created *The Read the Bills Act* (RTBA). If Congress had to read the laws it passes it wouldn't have time to pass so many. And, government growth would slow.

Change the rules and you can change the outcome.

By proposing something nearly everyone would support we have a real chance to recruit enough people to compel Congress to change the rules.

There are millions of Americans who'd support RTBA, but only 535 members of Congress. The numbers are on our side. We could overwhelm Congress with messages, faxes, letters, and phone calls, until they scream uncle and pass RTBA.

Change the rules and the game changes, in our favor.

Why stop with making Congress read the laws it passes? How about applying the same idea to bureaucratic regulations? Regulations are *de facto* laws. Un-elected bureaucrats shouldn't write them, Congress should. They should be read by Congress too, before they can be voted in. DownsizeDC.org is working on a bill to do just that. It's the kind of thing most people would support, not just libertarians.

But when you change the rules in a libertarian direction you can get a libertarian result.

And there's more along the same lines...

How about requiring the government to live under the same rules it just imposed on the private sector with the *Sarbanes-Oxley* bill? After the WorldCom and Enron scandals Congress passed the bill to hold CEO's responsible for their companies' financial statements. Shouldn't politicians do the same?

Before the prescription drug bill passed, a government employee testified it would cost \$400 billion over 10 years. His agency knew the real figure was closer to \$550 billion. His boss told him Congress wanted to hear the lower number. He obeyed. The real number came out after the bill passed. Then the estimate rose again, to nearly \$700 billion! No one lost their job, and Congress made no move to reconsider. Government employees lied. Accounting was botched. And only the taxpayers have suffered the consequences.

But what if we had a *Sarbanes-Oxley* bill for govern-

ment? What if programs created with inaccurate numbers had to be brought back to Congress for a new vote? Real numbers could make a real difference in the outcome. The prescription drug bill barely passed as it was. Change the rules and you can change the outcome.

Millions of Americans would support this kind of change. If we propose new rules that nearly everyone would support, we could potentially recruit enough people to overwhelm Congress. Change the rules and you can change the game, in your favor.

Millions of Americans would support this kind of change.

Play their game with their rules, and you'll probably lose. But play your own game with your own rules, and you have a fighting chance. DownsizeDC.org wants to play a different game, with different rules; rules where we can win. Please visit DownsizeDC.org and help us change the rules. ●



Photo: Elizabeth C. Briery

JIM BABKA is the President of the Downsize DC Foundation and DownsizeDC.org, Inc. He's the host of the Downsize DC Conference

Call heard Sunday's on GCNLive.com and a commentator for the Free Market News Network. Jim Babka was the Press Secretary for Harry Browne's 2000 presidential campaign and guest-hosted Mr. Browne's radio show during the final months of his life. Contact: 703-236-5202 or JimBabka@DownsizeDC.org.

I Want to Join the Libertarian Party!

Yes! I want to become a proud dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of California. I'll receive 12 monthly issues of *California Freedom* and a membership card. Please sign me up at the following membership level:

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- \$50** Basic Member
- \$25** Basic Member (introductory rate*)
- \$ ___ Other Amount (\$50 minimum)
- \$ ___ Monthly Pledge (\$10/month minimum)
- \$1000** Benefactor
- \$500** Patron
- \$250** Sponsor
- \$100** Sustaining

* Special offer, available if you have never been an LPC member

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLY DATE

Check or money order enclosed. Monthly pledgers please include a voided check to authorize automatic monthly payments,

Or: Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

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What's YOUR Take?

See YOUR viewpoint in print in *California Freedom*. Send us your photos, reports on local LP events, op-ed articles, etc. You can profile an enterprising Libertarian businessperson, or review a recent book from a Libertarian perspective. We give credit to all photographic contributions, and your work would be seen by thousands of readers!



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Property Must be Protected From Seizure for Profit

By Jon Coupal
President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

In some countries the use of eminent domain can be a life or death issue.

Last June, in the small village of Shengyou, China, six people were killed and 50 injured in a bloody clash between farmers and hundreds of armed thugs sent by government operatives to seize their land. This was just one of thousands of disputes over land appropriation that take place each year in China

Fueling these conflicts is the ambiguous nature of property ownership in China. The rights of farmers who hold land collectively are not made clear under Chinese law. Although farmers can acquire property through long term leases, government can destroy even these limited property rights at will.

Taking property from one private citizen to give to another must cease.



For most Americans, until recently, this would have been considered a problem unique to those living half way across the world. Certainly in our country, a strong legal system and precedents dating from our nation's founding protect against the arbitrary seizure of property.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Kelo v. City of New London* – a decision coincidentally handed down the same month as the melee in Shengyou – has American property owners asking themselves just what are their rights, and if their



property is really their own.

The court battle began when several New London, Conn., homeowners objected to the city's use of eminent domain to seize their property so that it could be turned over to a developer who would return more tax revenue.

At issue was the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment, which states "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Specifically, what do the words "public use" mean?

The Fifth Amendment, it has been traditionally argued, allows for the taking of private property for such public benefits as roads or school construction. This makes more sense because, especially with roads, one holdout property owner can frustrate the purposes of an entire community.

However, the Supreme Court in a 5 to 4 decision expanded the definition of public use. Now New London officials, and redevelopment agencies across the nation, can seize private property and turn it over to another private interest just to put more money into local government coffers.

Even without the benefit of the *Kelo* decision, for years California redevelopment agencies have been abusing their powers of eminent domain. Unspoiled homes and other property are declared "blighted" – the definition of which is nearly as vague as Chinese property rights. Then they can be condemned and turned into car dealerships or supermarkets to produce more tax revenue. The actual condition of the property that is condemned seems to have little relevance; in at least one instance a golf course was declared blighted.

Often the actual victims

of redevelopment abuse are minority owners of homes and businesses, whose lack of political clout makes them more vulnerable. The High Court's ruling makes a bad situation worse by increasing the options officials have to use eminent domain.

Unlike for most initiatives, support for the protection of one's property cuts across all political and socio-economic classifications.

Bad behavior by redevelopment agencies is not all that surprising when one realizes that in many communities the redevelopment commissioners are city council members wearing a different hat. What better way to repay a developer's campaign contribution than with the reward of a piece of prime property for a new shopping mall?

Even in Los Angeles, where the public is led to believe a separate redevelopment agency has some autonomy, the use of eminent domain is rife with abuse.

A year after the city seized three acres from a private company, ostensibly to be used for an animal shelter, at least one City Council member is crusading to sell the property to another private company whose owner has lavished substantial campaign cash on local office holders.

The *Kelo* decision, along with years of redevelopment and eminent domain abuse across the state, has made property owners angry. Surveys show nearly 90% of Californians consider this a major problem.

Taking property from one private citizen to give to another must cease. To this end, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has been working with State Sen., Tom McClintock and Orange County Supervisor Chris Norby. We support legislation to make basic protection from arbitrary seizure of property a part of the state constitution.

Additionally, there are several initiative measures filed to address what is now known as "Kelo" reform. Unlike most initiative measures, support for the protection of one's property cuts across all political and socio-economic classifications.

Whether property rights advocates are forced to pursue the initiative route is dependent on the willingness of the California Legislature and municipal interests to accept meaningful reform. ●

JON COUPAL is an attorney and president of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California's largest taxpayer organization, which is dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and promoting taxpayers' rights. Their website is www.HJTA.org.

★★★★★★★★
Official Proclamation



The Libertarian Party of California directs its Members and County Parties to:

Support the signature gathering efforts of both the 'California Eminent Domain Limitations Act' (the People's Initiative) and the 'Protect Our Homes Act' (the Anderson Initiative) during the month of April.

WWW.LimitEminentDomain.Org has downloadable petitions for the People's Initiative.

The Anderson Initiative is at *WWW.ProtectOurHomes2006.Com*

Both measures must collect the requisite number of signatures by the end of April to appear on the November ballot.

–Daniel Wiener
Secretary, LPC

CA_Secretary@LibertarianParty.info



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www.CA.LP.org



A Charitable Foundation for Entrepreneurs?

By Robert Ringer
Author

The “don’t be evil” mantra that Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have long used as an obvious poke in Bill Gates’ eye is looking just a bit suspect of late. By going along with the Chinese government’s insistence on censoring Google in China, the search-engine prodigies suddenly look remarkably the same as every other kill-or-be-killed cutthroat operation in Silicon Valley.

Even more of a blow to the self-righteous Google toddlers is that *Time* magazine recently named Bill Gates one of its three ‘Persons of the Year’ (along with his wife, Melinda, and rock star Bono). Queen Melinda was certainly deserving of her share of the honor, as she long ago demonstrated her enormous ability to marry well. And Bono, for all his lack of musical talent, appears not only to have good intentions but also possesses a surprising amount of knowledge about world affairs.

But the heavyweight in the crowd is, of course, Bill



Gates himself. Though Gates’ reputation for ruthlessness has made him the Darth Vader of our age, he has now moved on to taking his obligatory place in history as a great philanthropist.

In doing so, he follows in the footsteps of such legendary softies as Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and Joseph Kennedy. All this may bring your more cynical side to the surface, but it’s simply the way the world works. Philanthropy is the next logical step for anyone who makes enough money to buy his own planet.

To be sure, a \$29 billion foundation dedicated to fighting, among other things, third-world disease and poverty is a noble cause—even if some might suspect that vanity is the driving force behind its creation. As all rational adults recognize, the end often justifies the means.

History, however, has made me a cynic for reasons having nothing to do with vanity. You can feed people, vaccinate

them, and help them in myriad ways—but only until your money runs out.

However, from a long-term point of view, it’s all in vain if you don’t address the underlying causes of disease and poverty. And the biggest cause by far is—and always has been—brutal, corrupt, dictatorial governments that suppress and terrorize their own citizens.

In this respect, the United Nations is the ultimate enabler. The UN not only does little or nothing to help those in distress, it actually makes matters worse by endorsing the very dictators who rule over them.

That the United States not only continues to be a member of this shameful, corrupt, and farcical organization is bad enough. But to allow Kofi & Friends to hatch their crooked schemes on U.S. soil is beyond the realm of moral comprehension.

So long as third-world dictators and/or corrupt governments remain in control of their countries, people not only will be impoverished, but also randomly tortured and murdered. Look what happened to Rhodesia—renamed (spare me)

“Zimbabwe”—after its civilized government was overthrown. Rhodesia was once one of the two most prosperous and civilized countries in Africa. (The second, of course, was South Africa, before its government caved in to the global frenzy over Nelson Mandela.)

The biggest cause of disease and poverty is brutal, corrupt, dictatorial governments that suppress and terrorize their own citizens.

So, what can be done about ruthless dictators who rule the world’s most downtrodden? Unfortunately, short of nuking them, which would kill hundreds of millions of innocent people, not much. The U.S. certainly can’t put boots on the ground in every country and search every rat hole to find their dictators and bring them to justice.

Which brings me back to Bill Gates. Even if every dime of Gates’ \$29 billion foundation reached the needy in Africa, it wouldn’t do much good over the long term. The reality is that \$29 billion is a drop in the bucket when it comes to providing people with food, medical care, and education. And even Bill has limited resources.

The only thing that will permanently solve the problem of widespread poverty and slavery is freedom—which, by definition, includes free markets. When market forces are unleashed and people are free to pursue their own well being, everyone’s standard of living rises.

I’m neither vain nor smart enough to come up with solutions for third-world countries controlled by serial killers. But if Gates really wants to help impoverished people, perhaps he should just buy a third-world country of his choice from its corrupt rulers. Then, he could appoint himself as a benevolent dictator and allow people to pursue their own happiness in any way they chose.

You’re right—that’s not going to happen. So, the next

best thing is to make the civilized world even richer than it is and hope that some of the increased wealth will find its way to third-world countries—not just to feed and clothe people, but to promote economic growth. Think, for example, of the way outsourcing and so-called sweatshops (euphemism for employment opportunities come true) in such places as Indonesia and Pakistan have been a godsend to millions of previously desperate, unemployed people.

How could Gates accomplish this? By doling out his foundation’s entire \$29 billion in interest-free loans to Western entrepreneurs—particularly entrepreneurs who are down and out and have absolutely no collateral to back their loans. Entrepreneurs are those greedy guys who, for “selfish” reasons, constantly strive to create better products and services—and provide people with job opportunities in the process.

Smart entrepreneurs clearly understand how the invisible hand of the marketplace works. They recognize that the most certain road to success is to give people what they want at prices they are willing to pay. That’s why so-called capitalism (a.k.a. business freedom) is the ultimate win-win philosophy.

Capitalism is the ultimate win-win philosophy.

Having said all this, I’m sorry to have to add—and this will probably come as a surprise to you—there is no chance whatsoever that Gates is going to take my advice. Instead, he’ll dutifully listen to properly bred Melinda and throw good money after bad.

Perhaps I shouldn’t say it publicly, but, as I’ve told Bill so often, if he doesn’t start to heed my advice, I may have no choice but to resign as his financial advisor. ●

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How Feds Will Spend Your Taxes in 2006

by **Brian Riedl**

Fellow, Heritage Foundation

Taxpayers frantically completing their 1040s may be wondering just what their hard-earned federal tax dollars pay for, anyway.

Washington will spend \$23,760 per household in 2006—the highest inflation-adjusted total since World War II, and \$6,500 more than in 2001. The federal government will collect \$20,044 per household in taxes. The remaining \$3,716 represents this year's budget deficit per household, which, along with all prior government debt, will be dumped in the laps of our children.

Here's a breakdown of how Washington will spend that \$23,760 per household:

In 2006 Washington will spend \$23,760 per household, of which \$3,716 is borrowed.

Social Security/Medicare: \$7,875. The 15.3 percent payroll tax, split evenly between the employer and employee,

Our forefathers made one mistake. What they should have fought for was representation without taxation.

— Fletcher Knebel, historian

The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.

— Albert Einstein, scientist

Taxes are not levied for the benefit of the taxed.

— Robert A. Heinlein

We have a system that increasingly taxes work and subsidizes non-work.

— Milton Friedman

Submitted by Bill Todd, Orange County

covers most of these costs. This system can remain sustainable only if there are enough workers to support all retirees, which is why it risks collapsing under the weight of 77 million retiring baby boomers. If nothing is done, taxes eventually will need to be raised by the current equivalent of \$11,000 per household to pay all promised benefits.

The unpredictable costs of the new Medicare drug entitlement could add thousands more to each household's tax bill.

Defense: \$4,701. The defense budget covers everything from military salaries to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to the research, development and acquisition of new technologies. Lawmakers drastically reduced defense spending following the collapse of communism in the early 1990s. The 9/11 attacks reversed this trend, and the \$1,900 per household increase since 2001 has returned defense spending to its historical levels.

Low-income programs: \$3,579. Nearly half of this spending subsidizes state Medicaid programs that provide health services to poor families. Other low-income spending includes: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamps, housing subsidies, child-care subsidies, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and low-income tax credits. Despite recent rhetoric about "cuts for poor," anti-poverty spending now tops 3 percent of GDP for the first time ever.

Interest on the federal debt: \$1,930. The federal government is \$8.2 trillion in debt. It owes \$4.9 trillion to public bond owners, and the rest to other federal agencies (mostly to repay the Social Security trust fund, which lawmakers raid annually). Despite rising debt, record-low interest rates have limited costs. As interest rates rise back to normal levels, these costs will spike.

Federal employee retirement benefits: \$870. This spending funds the retirement and disability benefits of federal employees, including the military.

Education: \$732. Education spending is primarily a state and local function; 9 percent of the total comes from Washington. Federal education spending has surged 137 percent since the 2001 enactment of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Most federal

dollars are spent on low-income school districts, special education and college student financial aid.

Health research/regulation: \$671. This spending is up 78 percent since 2001, and much of this growth is concentrated in the National Institute of Health. This category includes the Food and Drug Administration and dozens of grant programs for health providers.

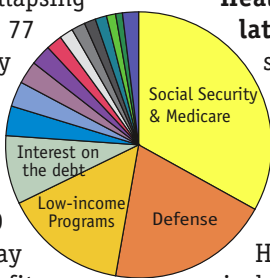
Veterans' benefits: \$618. The federal government provides income and health benefits to war veterans. Spending is up 56 percent since 2001.

Community and regional development: \$456. The \$300 per household leap in this category since 2004 comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is financing much of the Hurricane Katrina relief.

Highways/mass transit: \$402. Most highway and mass-transit spending is financed by the 18.4 cent per-gallon federal gas tax. Washington subtracts an administrative cost and sends this money back to the states with numerous strings attached. Some economists suggest it would be more efficient to let states collect this tax and decide how to spend the money themselves.

Justice administration: \$363. Justice spending includes federal attorneys and prisons, as well as law-enforcement grant programs. New homeland security costs have added \$80 per household to justice spending.

Unemployment benefits: \$338. Unemployment costs fluctuate based on the number of unemployed Americans. This year, unemployment costs are decreasing as job growth continues.



Breakdown of Federal Budget per Household \$23,760

Social Security/Medicare	\$7,875
Defense	4,701
Low-income programs	3,579
Interest on the debt	1,930
Fed. employee retirement	870
Education	732
Health research/regulation	671
Veterans' benefits	618
Community development	456
Highways/mass transit	402
Justice administration	363
Unemployment	338
International affairs	305
Environment	287
Agriculture	235
All other fed. programs	398

International affairs: \$305. This includes foreign economic and military assistance, operation of American embassies abroad, and contributions to organizations such as the United Nations. International spending has doubled since 9/11.

Natural resources/environment: \$287. This includes national parks, federal lands, water projects and environmental clean-up.

Agriculture: \$235. Despite rhetoric about supporting small family farms, the vast majority of farm subsidies are distributed to large farms with average household incomes over \$135,000.

The programs listed above cover \$23,362 per household. The remaining \$398 is allocated to all other federal programs, including social services, space exploration, air transportation and energy.

Taxpayers must decide for themselves if they're getting their money's worth. ●

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BRIAN RIEDL is Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Federal Budgetary Affairs in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation. www.heritage.org/About/Staff/BrianRiedl.cfm

Tax Freedom Day Delayed—More Evidence We Are Over-Taxed



by **Richard Rider**

Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters

Today is my least favorite day—tax submission day. Like many people, I don't actually submit my 1040 by this date—I must always take an extension as it takes longer to get all the info together for submission.

Nevertheless, one has to at least pay the taxes owed and file the extension forms. Plus, for investors and the self employed, the quarterly payments are due this date as well. As the day progresses, I get rather surly.

The Tax Foundation uses this day to release its annual Tax Freedom Day report. I've included the summary below, but for the full detail, you might want to go to their website, www.TaxFoundation.org.

The news is not good. In spite of the major federal tax cuts, Tax Freedom Day is again marching towards December. This year national Tax Freedom Day (which averages all the federal state and local income collections) is three days later than 2005—it's now 26 April.

A major cause of the 3 day increase doubtless has to do with rapidly rising state and local tax revenue collections. While the rates have been raised in some cases, the revenue from

inflation have increased the collections even more.

It gets worse. The Tax Foundation bases its calculations on revenue collected. It does *not* count the mushrooming deficit spending in D.C. and the resulting soaring national debt. It also does not include all the many regulatory costs of complying with the hundreds of thousands of laws in our land.

Nevertheless, it is a lowball guideline that is of value in sensing the degree of our problem.

For Californians, the news is worse, because we are "above average." Sometimes that's a good thing—but not in tax collections. California is the 9th highest state in the nation when figuring Tax Freedom Day—ours is 30 April. Once again, we are made aware that the old canard asserting that Californians do not pay enough taxes is a load of hokey. ●



RICHARD RIDER is Chairman of San Diego Tax Fighters, and last year ran for Mayor in San Diego's special election. A long-time Libertarian activist, Rider was the LPC's 1994 candidate for Governor, and in 1998 garnered 16% of the vote in his race for San Diego Tax Collector. He can be reached at RRider@san.rr.com.



Butte County Hosts Nor-Cal Freedom Fest

Saturday, July 8, Butte County LP will host the Nor-Cal Freedom Fest at the Holiday Inn, 685 Manzanita Ct, Chico, California.

The event starts at 9:30 a.m. and is filled with panel discussions, speakers, an afternoon convention, presentations about specific issues, and concludes with a backyard BBQ and party 'til 10 p.m. featuring live music by Papa Woody. You can do it all for the unbelievable price of \$20 prepaid. (Lunch is on your own.)

Vince Carlton moderates a panel discussion of radio hosts **Steve Gibson, Dave White,** and **Jeff Lords** in the morning. Former State Veterans Secretary, Senator **Maurice Johannson** will also speak before lunch.

During the convention there will be presentations by representatives from **Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA), Gun Owners of California (GOC), Fair Tax, National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act (NORFED), Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC),** and **Instant Runoff Voting (IRV).**

Libertarian Party candidates for statewide office including Gubernatorial Candidate **Art Olivier** and candidates **Lynnette Shaw** and **Gail Lightfoot** will address the convention in the late afternoon.

Make check or money order to: Butte County Libertarian Party P.O. Box 702, Chico, California 95927. Call Casey Aplanalp at 530-894-8434 if you'd like to table additional LP interests. Mention the Freedom Fest to the Holiday Inn (530) 345-2491, and get a great room rate if staying overnight. ●

Holding a Libertarian Event?

Today's Events

Contact us with your information!
Editor@CA.LP.Org

Meeting Notice

The next quarterly meeting of the **LPC Executive Committee** will be held on **Saturday, May 6,** from **10:07 a.m. to 5:33 p.m.** at the **DoubleTree Hotel** in **San Jose, California.**

www.doubletreesanjose.com/

All LPC members are welcome to attend.

For more details, check our website: www.CA.LP.org

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California Freedom



• **Scott Wilson** handing out suckers during a **Libertarian Party demonstration** at an **East Bay Area post office** on **tax day, 2005.**

Congratulations on Tax Freedom Day!

By the time you read this, you have probably earned the right to celebrate. According to the Tax Foundation, all of the average U.S. taxpayer's earnings up until April 26 this year has gone to pay Federal, State, and local taxes. If you are a typical California taxpayer, then after April 30 you have completed this year's tax servitude and can now start using what you earn on your private expenditures and savings. This year's National Tax Freedom Day is 3 days later than in 2005.

Write *California Freedom* and tell us how you celebrated.

Shopping for a home?

Tap into the Libertarian Network of Realtors and help boost income to the LPC!

Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Calaveras County Libertarians, **Al Segalla**, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

With so many Libertarians in California, this could yield several hundred Network transactions each year.

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County

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