

Free State

LIBERTARIAN

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Letter from the Chair

With Thanksgiving behind, and Christmas and Chanukah ahead, now is the time when many of us look for gifts for friends and family. This is also an a time to aid those less fortunate than ourselves. Let's look for opportunities to help people help themselves.

We know that today's welfare system encourages dependency, and discourages the hard work needed to break the welfare cycle. But when we talk about reducing and/or eliminating welfare, we need to emphasize how private, voluntary contributions and efforts can do the job better. And to show that we are serious about this, we need to be visible supporting these charities. This holiday season, see what you can do to be an example of our principles in action.

I'd like to thank Lorenzo and Susan Gaztanaga, you did a great job as co-chairs of our '95 convention committee. The convention was very successful - you can read more about it in this issue. One highlight I'd like to emphasize is Bob Creager declaring that he is running for Congress. He will be running in District 8, against Connie Morella.

Creager's campaign will begin by challenging the ballot access laws that unfairly require Libertarian candidates to gather thousands of petition signatures to appear on the ballot. The Republican and Democrat candidates are not required to provide any signatures. This campaign also gives us a great opportunity to show the voters how neither Democrats nor Republicans are answering the needs of Maryland, and the United States.

The Democrats and Republicans have
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MARYLAND LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION A SUCCESS

The Maryland LP held their 1995 convention on Oct 21 where it elected a new slate of state party officers. The new officers are:

Jesse Markowitz(Chair), Keith Halderman,(Vice Chair), Terry Atwood(Secretary), Ron Kean(Assistant Secretary), Amy Rule(parliamentarian), Christie Gardinier(Treasurer) and Stuart Simms(Assistant Treasurer). Following the business meeting and elections, the attendees were treated to a special appearance by Jo Jorgensen, LP Vice Presidential candidate. In her speech "Why Republican Politicians Keep Selling Out Freedom" she states that the Republican goals of slowing the growth of government and improving its efficiency may sound libertarian but that this conservative rhetoric is certainly not in keeping with the Libertarian philosophy. We do not want to slow down the growth of goverment, we want to reverse the growth, shrinking the size and scope of government intrusion. Ms Jorgensen compares government growth to a video tape saying "liberals would be pushing the Fast Forward button, moderates the Forward button,



"In the past, voting Libertarian was a way of sending Washington a message. Well, their phone's off the hook, they're not reading the mail and their FAX machine's out of paper....We're through sending them a message. Now we're going to elect the messengers."

Jo Jorgensen

Republican Politicians would talk about hitting the Pause button, while they left the tape on forward. Libertarians are the only people trying to push the rewind button."

The afternoon session was just as exciting, with featured speaker Zoh Hieronimus discussing the tenth amendment initiative, which calls for a Conference of States, and the hazards that this poses to our liberties. She also encouraged the LP membership to take action when injustices are found, by bringing it to the publics attention by writing letters to the press, calling our

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Inside This Issue

Walter Williams looks at SSI- That "Crazy Money" pg 3

Guest Columnist, Glen Litsinger takes a look at the Government shutdown pg 4

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VEIP UPDATE*Submitted by Derek Mancinho*

Last year Nancy Jacobs (Republican delegate, Dist-34) lead the charge against the new VEIP. We contacted her and supported her effort especially through the collection of petitions showing public outrage over the new program. Over 100,000 signatures were presented requesting repeal of this new program. In spite of the overwhelming support for repeal of the new VEIP our governor brushed the petitions aside and stated that there is a silent majority in Maryland who support the new program.

Since last March the VEIP has changed almost monthly. Pressure from a variety of citizens groups has resulted in the elimination of the visual portion of the emissions equipment inspection. But when the pressure is lifted the state immediately resumes these warrentless searches.

The fight is not over and the Republicans have vowed that they will be resuming the fight in the upcoming session. We will be supporting this fight by reviewing the information collected by the public through their experiences with the new VEIP and testifying in Annapolis. We will also keep our eye on the Republican Party to make sure that this issue is never dropped!

If you want to help in this effort please call Derek Mancinho, Chairman of the Harford County Libertarian Party, at 410-836-3104. The more public participation the better our chances at repealing this latest form of blackmail from Annapolis.

HARFORD COUNTY TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The Harford County Libertarian Central Committee will be electing new members at their January meeting. All Libertarian Party members and the public are welcome. Meetings are held at 7 pm on the 4th Monday of every month, at the public library in Bel Air. Contact Derek Mancinho for further information.



The new executive committee.
(From left to right)
Ron Kean, Chris Gardinier, Amy Rule, Terry Atwood, Keith Halderman, Jesse Markowitz and Stuart Simms.

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legislators, and calling in to talk shows.

The next topic, tax reform, was presented by three panelist, each a proponent of a particular reform package. The panelist were: Bryan Riley (flat tax), Director of Trade and Budget Policy at Citizens for a Sound Economy, Dean Stansel (national sales tax) of the Cato Institute and Joshua Vincent (land tax), Associate Director of the Henry George Foundation. Although any type of tax proposal to a group of Libertarians is a hard sell, they did all agree with Mr. Riley that the 16th amendment, which allows the government to levy a personal income tax, should be repealed.



Catherine Ditman of MSRPA

The final event was a lively discussion of concealed carry laws. The speaker was Catherine Ditman of the Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association. After citing statistics on lower crime rates in areas that have favorable concealed carry laws, she shredded typical arguments that gun control advocates use when debating this issue. She closed by reminding everyone that this issue will be in the Maryland State Legislature again this year.

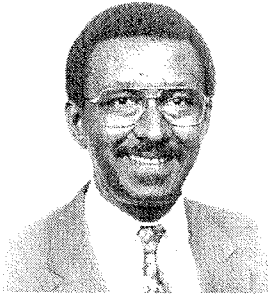
During the banquet dinner, several awards were given out to Libertarian activists for their contributions to the party. Defender of Liberty Awards were given to Scott Becker, for grass roots organizing on ballot access, Dan Anderson, for stepping in and tackling the tough job of Treasurer, Chris Gardinier, for her behind the scenes work and Ruth Mayer, for her work with the newsletter. The prestigious Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award, honoring

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Zoh Hieronimous, Baltimore Radio personality, answering questions from the audience.

See Page 8 for more convention photographs



A Minority View

By Walter E Williams

CRAZY MONEY

In Order to fully appreciate this column, you just have to get your pay stub and see how much of your earnings was taken out for Social Security. Lake Providence, La., is probably the poorest town in the country. But one of its citizens does quite well. According to Reader's Digest

(May 1995), Rosie Watson goes to the post office each month to pick up nine federal welfare checks totaling \$3,893 worth of tax-free income that adds up to \$46,716 a year.

Watson, 44, gets \$343.50 in disability payments because a Social Security judge found her too stressed out to work. Weighing 386 pounds, her common-law husband also gets a disability check for the same amount. Rosie has seven children ranging in age from 13 to 22. They've all scored poorly on psychological tests and lagged behind in school. Under government welfare rules, her kids are eligible to receive \$458 each for failing to demonstrate "age-appropriate behavior." These welfare payments in Lake Providence and other communities are so widespread that they are popularly known as "crazy checks."

According to the Reader's Digest story, Rosie's handouts haven't contributed much to civilized living standards. "The screen door hangs open. Soaps blare from the television. Roaches crawl the walls in the living room; the kitchen is caked with dirt. The house lacks a telephone, but Rosie does have two scanners to monitor police calls." Rosie explains her scanners, saying, "That's so I know what's going on."

Willie Bell, a black, is the principal of Southside Elementary School across the street from Rosie's house. Bell complained, while appearing before the National Commission on Childhood Disability, that "SSI is having an impact on my students' academic performances because I have honor roll students who are no longer trying because of the need to substantiate their claims for disability benefits." Bell and his staff say parents are encouraging, or coaching, their children to perform poorly and misbehave in school to get the SSI checks. "The children don't want to fail," Bell says. "They are doing what Mama wants."

Ray Owens, school psychologist from Moorehouse Parish, said, "Many parents don't spend the money (crazy money) on the child." One father's boy, Owens recalls, was bleeding from the gums, but one dentist wouldn't treat the boy because he didn't accept Medicaid. The father responded, when asked why he didn't spend some of the \$458 on a private dentist, "That's my money."

If I didn't know better, I'd swear the "crazy money" scheme was part of an insidious Ku Klux Klan plot to sabotage black education. However, this program and others that produce similar bizarre disincentives have the support of "caring" white liberals, black politicians and civil rights activists. If the Republican Congress ever got around to ending the crazy-money program, rest assured we'd hear choruses of liberal howls of protest just as we heard when changes were being made in the school lunch program. They'd accuse the Republicans of abandoning the nation's children, with the media buying into the charge.

History is not going to be kind to liberals. With their mindless programs, they've managed to do to black Americans what slavery, Reconstruction and rank racism found impossible: destroy families and the work ethic. Liberals share Rosie Watson's vision of a compassionate society. Rosie says, "I've got nothing to hide. SSI has done a lot for our family. We're not able to work, and it's the best income."

'A Government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul.'

George Bernard Shaw



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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN NOT

by Glen Litsinger

Most libertarians I know consider the unfinished battle over the current Federal budget a farce, and rightly so. We watched in good humor as the politicians handed (one can hope) P.J. O'Rourke the theme for his next *Rolling Stone* article, by "forcing" 800,000 "nonessential" Federal employees to stay home (with pay!) during the four-day "shutdown". Government doors slammed in the faces of unfortunates such as tourists (okay, some of them were foreigners, but how does it look?) who had their vacation itineraries upset by closure of the People's museums and parks, which in turn denied the Government desperately needed revenue from admission fees and tacky souvenir sales.

Elsewhere, all hell was breaking loose. Drunks and addicts ripped off the citizens to support their habits, while the DEA had to cease lining their coffers confiscating the property of alleged dealers, and potentially lifesaving drugs languished in FDA laboratories, awaiting licitness. The Post Office stored undelivered mail in boxcars, the EPA "downscaled" by concentrating on smaller polluters such as farmers who raise fowl that foul our wetlands, and the Vice President was so moved by the specter of nonfunctioning Government that he vowed to reinvent it.

In short, *nothing much changed*.

But *something* most assuredly *happened*. As the rhetorical smoke clears it reveals opportunity for the LP, if we have the courage to seize it.

At the outset, the "revolutionaries" of the "libertarian wing" of the House Republicans managed to elevate the idea of government itself being the problem to the level of serious debate. For that they deserve our applause. With messianic fervor they led the attack on Capitol Hill, and, to the horror of the Democrats' socialist supporters, the President seemed sympathetic to some of their goals and resigned to others. Moreover, in this war of words the Democrats are, for once, outnumbered, and have been forced on the defensive. But they maintain the advantage of fighting on their own turf, the Socialist stronghold of Washington, DC, and have powerful allies in the press. When Republicans attack the welfare state and the various liberal entitlements and then defend their own statist and unconstitutional projects—corporate welfare, tax-exemptions for religious PACs, defense establishment featherbedding, and so on—they leave themselves vulnerable to the just charge of hypocrisy. Defeat (aka compromise, aka more of the same) of any real reform seems to be inevitable.

But hold on. The window of opportunity remains open, because the boys and girls on the Hill have only delayed the final skirmish. There are still weeks of acrimonious debate and finger-pointing to enjoy, and the chance to trumpet libertarian ideas on how to balance the budget. Viewing the GOP charge as a test case for *real* revolution, I offer the following observations:

- (1) The apparent rejection by the huddled masses of any attempt to reduce middle-class entitlements makes the selling of LP ideas as likely as finding Dr. Kervorkian teaching a CPR class. Harry Browne's plan, for example, proposes to cut the budget by 50% the first year, and reduce it to \$100 billion by the sixth year (about 7% of the current outlay); pay off as much of the public debt as possible by selling government assets, the rest by a temporary 5% national sales tax (which would replace all other federal taxes); and the abolition of all entitlement programs. Even though I'm basically in accord with it, I shudder when I contemplate presenting this plan to even the most sympathetic of my relatives.
- (2) However, the viciousness of the statist counterattack from the Left, with its innumerable blatant lies and obvious distortions, along with the aforementioned hypocrisy of the entrenched Right, leaves both sides open to ridicule and public exposure.
- (3) The way to exploit this vulnerability is through the media. Already there are a number of libertarian commentators on talk radio, and in the printed press, who get attention when they speak out. Through them as well as through grass roots activism, we must subject the politicians to certain unrelenting questions: *Why are you lying? What is your motive?* We must educate the public on the insidious nature of demagoguery, on why the government will always fail to address the real issues if the public doesn't understand them, and above all in the ways that private enterprise can take over not only the routine government services, but all that the Government promises and can't deliver, through a truly free market. We can only hope to accomplish this by climbing down from our intellectual towers and speaking to them in their language, in their forums.
- (4) Finally, we must *not* commit ourselves to numbers and time-tables. An essential flaw of statist "solutions" is that they must try to predict the future; where would they be without their rosy five-year plans upon which to base their utopian predictions? Beyond that, Harry Browne's plan is dead even before arrival, because it is far too radical to be taken seriously by the opposition

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Ending the Welfare State

How to Promote Opportunity, Work, & Individual Responsibility

FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL and ideological spectrum, there is now almost *universal acknowledgement* that the American social welfare system has been a failure.

Since the start of the "war on poverty" in 1965, the United States has spent more than \$5 trillion trying to ease the plight of the poor. What we have received for this massive investment is — primarily — *more* poverty.

Our welfare system is unfair to everyone: to taxpayers who must pick up the bill for failed programs; to society, whose mediating institutions of community, church and family are increasingly pushed aside; and most of all to the poor themselves, who are trapped in a system that destroys opportunity for themselves and hope for their children.

The Libertarian Party believes it is time for a new approach to fighting poverty. It is a program based on opportunity, work, and individual responsibility.

■ 1. END WELFARE

None of the proposals currently being advanced by either conservatives or liberals is likely to fix the fundamental problems with our welfare system. Current proposals for welfare reform, including block grants, job training, and "workfare" represent mere tinkering with a failed system.

It is time to recognize that welfare *cannot* be reformed: it should be ended.

We should eliminate the entire social welfare system. This includes eliminating AFDC, food stamps, subsidized housing, and all the rest. Individuals who are unable to fully support themselves and their families through the job

market must, once again, learn to rely on supportive family, church, community, or private charity to bridge the gap.

■ 2. ESTABLISH A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIVATE CHARITY

If the federal government's attempt at charity has been a dismal failure, private efforts have been much more successful. America is the most generous nation on earth. We already contribute more than \$125 billion annually to charity. However, as we phase out inefficient government welfare, private charities must be able to step up and fill the void.

To help facilitate this transfer of responsibility from government welfare to private charity, the federal government should offer a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions to private charities that provide social-welfare services. That is to say, if an individual gives a dollar to charity, he should be able to reduce his tax liability by a dollar.

■ 3. TEAR DOWN BARRIERS TO ENTREPRENEURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Almost everyone agrees that a job is better than any welfare program. Yet for years, this country has pursued tax and regulatory policies

that seem perversely designed to *discourage* economic growth and reduce entrepreneurial opportunities.

Someone starting a business today needs a battery of lawyers just to comply with the myriad of government regulations from a virtual alphabet soup of government agencies: OSHA, EPA, FTC, CPSC, etc. Zoning and occupational licensing laws are particularly damaging to the type of small businesses that may help people work their way out of poverty. In addition, government regulations such as minimum wage laws and mandated benefits drive up the cost of employing additional workers. We call for the repeal of government regulations and taxes that are steadily cutting the bottom rungs off the economic ladder.

■ 4. REFORM EDUCATION

There can be no serious attempt to solve the problem of poverty in America without addressing our failed government-run school system. Nearly forty years after *Brown vs. Board of Education*, America's schools are becoming increasingly segregated, not on the basis of race, but on income. Wealthy and middle class parents are able to send their children to private schools, or at least move to a district with better public schools. Poor families are trapped — forced to send their children to a public school system that fails to educate.

It is time to break up the public education monopoly and give all parents the right to decide what school their children will attend. *Only* a free market in education will provide the improvement in education necessary to enable millions of Americans to escape poverty.

■ SUMMARY

WE SHOULD NOT pretend that reforming our welfare system will be easy or painless. In particular, it will be difficult for those people who use welfare the way it was intended — as a temporary support mechanism during hard times. However, these people remain on welfare for short periods of time. A compassionate society will find other ways to help people who need temporary assistance. But our current government-run welfare system is costly to taxpayers and cruel to the children born into a cycle of welfare dependency and hopelessness.

The Libertarian Party offers a positive alternative to the failed welfare state. We offer a vision of a society based on work, individual responsibility, and private charity. It is a society based on opportunity and genuine compassion. It is a society built on liberty.

LIBERTY REPORT is published by the Libertarian Party. For the complete "Ending the Welfare State" Action Kit, send a \$25 contribution to: 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037.



"Welfare cannot be reformed: It should be ended."

LITERATURE IN REVIEW



by Antonia Camillieri

In review this issue is "Abortion and Rights: Applying Libertarian Principles Correctly" written by Doris Gordon.

Doris Gordon, Maryland Libertarian Party member and founder of Libertarians for Life, is, as one would expect, well-versed in all arguments pro and con abortion, and forcefully promotes her pro-life point of view. As she correctly states, Libertarians are as divided as the rest of the world on abortion. However, she asserts that pro-lifers "own the Libertarian high ground" when arguing for the right of the fetus to be born. She methodically examines each argument as it pertains to her own point of view that "Day One in a human being's life occurs at fertilization." She states that her arguments against abortion are based not on religious grounds, but on the Libertarian Party's core principle of non-aggression. Ms. Gordon believes that "If abortion is an evil that violates rights, then libertarians, of all people, should not want the state to defend and protect the evil-doing." Gordon equates abortion with homicide to justify giving the state the power and the duty to protect the unborn against all aggressors.

Accordingly, her argument continues, *Roe v. Wade* was an abdication of government's duty to protect basic rights by essentially legalizing homicide and sanctioning government subsidization of the killing of a child. She compares that decision to the 19th Century Court's decision in *Dred Scott*. In the latter case, although the Court referred to slaves as "persons", they were not citizens nor were they entitled to the same rights and privileges as citizens. Likewise in *Roe*,

she observes, the Court wrote that "the unborn have never been recognized in the law as persons in the whole sense."

In tackling this difficult question, then, Ms. Gordon is relying on the philosophical concept called "personhood." In applying any philosophical principles, one must first deal with the question: *When does personhood begin?* Gordon defines a person as an animal with the capacity for reason and choice. She believes that since zygotes possess that (future) capacity from the moment of conception, they must be afforded the same right to life as persons out of the womb.

In the *Roe* Court's reasoning of viability as the compelling point of its decision, Gordon questions the Court's opinion of what stage of human development that viability begins. She observes that zygotes in petri dishes and embryos in cold storage are clearly living outside the mother's womb and therefore viable.

Additionally, she states, abortion cannot be justified on grounds of incapacity. Capacity, she states, is defined by "abortion choicers" as the ability to demonstrate reason and choice *right now*. She argues that if that were true, the mentally retarded, people in comas, and stroke victims are incapacitated and therefore also would have no legal protection from being killed. However, she quickly hedges by saying that most "abortion choicers" probably would oppose equating a fetus with a comatose person.

Ms. Gordon's article brought up some very interesting philosophical points regarding the Libertarian principle of non-aggression. However, in doing so, she downplayed or ignored other Libertarian beliefs such as the Party's basic foundation of individual liberty and the right to privacy. By condoning government interference in a private decision, she is advocating a statist solution to a fundamentally personal and moral question. Indeed, her view of the state's protection of the rights of the unborn over the rights of the mother flies

in the face of what many view as the very essence of Libertarianism, the principle of non-interference in private matters.

This article raises more questions than it answers.

What of the woman who has an abortion? If the state has the authority to interfere in this decision, is the woman who aborts her unborn child then subject to a charge of murder?

Are zygotes entitled to MORE rights than that of the woman? Ms. Gordon apparently thinks so. She mentions at the beginning of her essay that some abortion proponents wrongfully equate unwanted pregnancy with involuntary servitude and slavery, yet she speaks of parents "owing" the fetus support and protection from harm. Further, a zygote has an unalienable right to "reside in her mother's womb and take nourishment there."

Nor can abortion be considered an option, says Ms. Gordon, when a woman's life is in danger. She chillingly states that in "such cases, the mother's right to self-preservation does not turn her child into a mere 'thing' that she may destroy at will." But our laws have honored the right to self-defense from the beginning. How is this different?

Viability, she claims, is defined as the capability of living or developing in normal or favorable situations. Ms. Gordon correctly brings out that because of strides being made every day in technology, viability occurs at earlier and earlier stages of human development. But is a zygote in a petri dish living in a "normal" or "favorable" condition? Therefore, can it be considered a truly "viable" entity in the medical, as well as the legal, sense of the word? Additionally, in order to reach its potential, the test-tube zygote *must* resume its development inside the womb.

The main question remains unanswered: *When does a person become a person?* As long as reasonable women disagree, and no scientific proof is available, that question must be answered by the individual.

**IN RESPONSE TO
MS. CAMILLIERI'S REVIEW**
Doris Gordon replies:

First, I'd like to thank Ruth Mayer for publishing a review of my article and letting me respond. And thanks to Antonia Camillieri for her conscientious job of reporting it fairly even while disagreeing with it. There are some points where I think the reporting had missteps, but the primary points where I'd like to take exception are in interpretation and principles.

I don't "equate" abortion and homicide, for instance; I say that abortion *is* homicide. Expecting the government not to legalize unjust homicide is not "statist." Ms. Camillieri seems to be saying that I am being statist because I hold that prenatally, we were human beings, persons with rights. Personhood is a pre-libertarian issue. The concepts of non-aggression, individual rights, privacy, etc., take personhood as a given.

I do not "downplay" individual liberty or the right to privacy— these

libertarian rights *follow from* the non-aggression principle; they don't stand alongside it or compete with it. Yet Ms. Camillieri claims that I am "advocating a statist solution" and putting "the rights of the unborn over the rights of the mother in private matters." She raises two issues here, one of which is privacy. The other is her claim that I give fetuses more rights than their mothers. I do no such thing. I defend the right of fetuses not to be killed by showing why under equal rights, parents must support their children and protect them from harm in order to avoid committing aggression.

Agreed, I did not get into what the law should do about aborters, but this is outside the scope of my article. Besides, punishment is subsidiary to what actions are aggression.

I have to wonder why Camillieri finds it "chilling" that I deny that a mother's need to preserve her own life turns her prenatal child into a mere thing. Even criminals can't be treated as mere things. And

obstetricians know that in even in tough cases, they have two patients to take care of, not just one.

The Libertarian Party platform says, "Children are human beings and, as such, have all the rights of human beings." It's time for the LP to stop brushing aside the children in the womb. Anyone who is in doubt about whether they are persons should opt for a choice that would result in the *least* of two possible injustices. As I explain in my article, if we weigh a temporary and partial loss of the woman's liberty against a total and permanent loss for her child of both life and liberty, the benefit of our doubt should go to the child.

Has Ms. Camillieri shown any of my arguments to be false? I don't think so; I think my article makes a substantial case. But I guess others will need to read it to see for themselves.

Any comments are welcome and can be sent to the editor at
MDLPNEWS@aol.com

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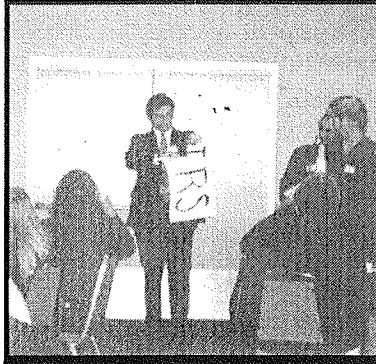
refused to attack the federal budget deficit aggressively. They continue to encroach on our civil rights. In Maryland, workplaces are being forced to be "smoke free" regardless of the wishes of the customers, employees and owners. At the same time, more and more people are realizing that it is time for us to return to our roots of limited government.

The Libertarian Party has already had a significant impact, raising the issues. The electorate are looking for candidates that are for small government, lower taxes, and less interference in the private lives of individuals. 1996 is an unprecedented opportunity for us to run winning campaigns. In order to do well next November, we need to prepare now.

Anyone who is interested in working on a campaign, or being a candidate should contact me immediately, your help is needed now. If you would not run for office, or help on a campaign, please join the party, and stay informed about what we are doing. Volunteer, or help financially, together, it makes a big difference. If you register Libertarian, that helps. If you vote for a Libertarian that helps. If you talk to your neighbors, friends, and family, and encourage them to vote Libertarian, Register Libertarian, Join Libertarian... it all helps. Every contribution large and small makes a difference for the fight for freedom in Maryland.

Whatever your holiday is this season, best wishes, and a happy new year.

Jesse



The bidding was furious for the coveted honor of tearing down the IRS, but in the end only one had that privilege.



Scott Becker accepting the Defender of Liberty award from Jesse Markowitz.

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or the press, and the public at large may no longer recognize the simple elegance of common sense. Of course, even the less ambitious goals espoused here demand Herculean efforts and much deeper pockets than we currently possess. The task is hardly impossible, though, thanks to the wide-open electronic forums, the acknowledged libertarian instincts of the American people, and the indomitable will of those of us who are "still yearning to be free". The winds of change are rising, and the distant shore is getting closer. This is the time to plot our course.

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outstanding achievement in furthering the cause of liberty, went to Jesse Markowitz. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony the FUNdraising began. The honors of dismantling several government institutions were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Unfortunately the institutions were only represented symbolically, but it's the thought that counts. The FUNdraising was such a success that after the original top 10 "most wanted" were destroyed, additional institutions were solicited from the audience to receive their well deserved fate. This was a big hit with the audience but due to time limitations, the fun had to end and the convention closed.

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