

Let Freedom Ring!

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Fylstra Quits LNC!

Gorman to Pursue Election As New Vice Chair

In a letter dated July 10, 2001, LNC Vice Chair Dan Fylstra announced his immediate resignation. He cited severe overwork attendant to two startup firms he leads. Fylstra was known to be unhappy about the LNC's treatment of Harry Browne (see page 3). Fylstra is the latest in a series of recent resignations from the LNC this year including former LNC Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz. The new Vice Chair will be chosen by the LNC, probably at their August 25-26 meeting in Las Vegas.

Writing of his replacement, Fylstra said: "It's often said that if you're going to resign a position, you

(Fylstra Resigns! Continued on page 2)

Tuniewicz on Browne, et al

Highly reliable sources not connected with the Libertarian National Committee have provided *Let Freedom Ring!* with a letter from former LPUS Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz to LPUS National Chair James Lark, answering Lark's inquiries as to what Tuniewicz knew about the Browne scandal, and providing Tuniewicz's recommendations to the National committee. Tuniewicz wrote in part:

"...First, I'd like to express my deep concern and disappointment relative to Harry Browne's refusal to cooperate in this inquiry. As a contributor and volunteer for Browne's campaigns, I feel betrayed.

"In my view, unless Mr. Browne fully cooperates with the inquiry prior to the August LNC meeting, the Committee should vote to permanently and prospectively cut all ties to Mr. Browne, his campaign & business associates, and related organizations using the broadest possible interpretation. For example, this would include a ban on list rentals to the American Liberty Foundation, web development by Jack Dean's firm(s), and support of any type to campaigns that involve Michael Emer-

(Tuniewicz Continued on page 2)

Fredrickson in Ballot Access Struggle

Libertarian Jim Fredrickson is locked in a desperate struggle for Ballot Access in the ongoing special election in Massachusetts' 9th Congressional District. Massachusetts requires 2000 valid (registered voter, lives in District, not registered Democrat, Republican, or Green) signatures for ballot access. At this writing, Fredrickson has about 3800 raw signatures, probably not enough given that validity rates are typically under 40%. "But it depends on the town and petitioner," said George Phillis, Massachusetts leading Libertarian expert on state ballot access issues. "Boston-Cambridge rates can be as low as 12%. Howell's Senate rate was reportedly

(Fredrickson Continued on page 3)

Look, Ma! No Income Tax!

Steve Trinward of Tennessee writes:

Not entirely official just yet ...

But it would appear that the Tennessee legislature **may** be passing a revenue/spending bill which not only does not add a state income tax to the burdens, **or** a raise in the sales tax, **or** some other slippery measure ...

But actually **level-funds** the state budget for the coming (actually already started) fiscal year!

One of the **primary** drivers in this has been the Libertarian Party of Tennessee (according to one of the two major radio talk show hosts officially, and several TV reporters and a number of fiscally responsible House and Senate members privately). We were out there at 5:30 a.m. during most mornings, the past 3-4 weeks, as we had been a year ago ... waving

(Look, Ma! No Income Tax! Continued on page 3)

Correction: In the paper edition of the July 2001 *Let Freedom Ring!* an inadvertent editing error in the article "Tuniewicz Speaks!" refers to Carla Howell's 2000 campaign as "Howell for Governor". The \$20,000+ in LNC support went to the Howell for Senate campaign, not the Howell for Governor campaign.

Contents — Let Freedom Ring! Fylstra Resigns.....1, Tuniewicz on Browne.....1, Fredrickson in Ballot Struggle.....1, Look, Ma! No Income Tax!.....1, Correction.....1, Was Fylstra Upset About Browne?.....3, TRUST - Why It Matters.....4,
Libertarian Strategy Gazette: The Guida Plan.....1, Editorial on Winning Endorsements (Jonathan Zwicke).....1, 'Informational' Campaigns (Famularo).....2 Recruiting Activists (Tim Crowley).....2, Seen on the Net [letters on Hornberger, SF fans].....5, Lessons from the Miller Campaign (John Famularo).....6, Signature Issues (John Famularo).....

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(Continued from page 1) [Fylstra Resigns!]

should be prepared to recommend a successor. For Vice Chair, the one person I can recommend without hesitation is Dr. Ken Bisson. Ken has the ability, the dedication, and the respect of his colleagues needed to fulfill the role of Vice Chair. Moreover, he has the considerable advantage of knowledge and continuity because he has been serving on the EC this term. It is up to the full LNC, of course, to vote upon the appointment of a new Vice Chair. But I'd like to ask my LNC colleagues to support my recommendation and vote for Ken to fulfill this role.

The Gorman Campaign

Four days later, Donald Gorman of Deerfield, New Hampshire acceded to the Gorman for Vice Chair movement launched by friends and supporters. An on-line petition advocating his election by the LNC is now found at <http://www.petitiononline.com/GoGorman/petition.html>.

Don Gorman is a member of the LNC's Strategic Planning Team and has attended every SPT meeting since its inception in December 2000. In addition to his four terms as a New Hampshire State Legislator, he currently serves in local public office as Chairman of the Zoning board of Adjustment.

Former LP National Secretary John Famularo writes of Gorman: "Most attendees at the national convention in Anaheim recognized that Don Gorman is a great asset to the Libertarian Party, which was shown by Manny Klausner and Ed Clark's successful motion to suspend the rules and offer Don the VP position on the LP national ticket. Even though he turned down the popular call to be the VP candidate, he continued and continues to tour the country with his candidate training seminars see: <http://www.gorman2000.com/>

"At this point in the party's history, attempting to develop a new strategic plan while suffering continuing and significant losses in membership, and faced with dealing with the escalating Browne/Willis fraud investigation, The LNC needs a mature, experienced, independent and morally based influence on the board and the executive committee."

Gorman is believed to be in a close race with Bisson. There is a month before the election; LPUS members have much time yet to make their feelings known to their LNC representatives.

(Continued from page 1) [Tuniewicz]

ling Cloud. Hopefully, the prospect of such a ban (and pressure from these related entities) will bring Mr. Browne to the table to answer the question that everyone wants to hear: What did Harry know, and when did he know it. And why didn't he disclose it when he found out?

"The honesty and integrity demanded by libertarian ethics demands no less...particularly for someone who holds themselves out as a standard-bearer.

"Second, I'd like to suggest that the Committee also take strong actions against Mr. Willis in this matter. While you

may have been led to believe that Mr. Willis's deceit is not actionable, I'd be happy to refer the Committee to litigators who would be happy to take the case and pursue money damages, small that they may be. I think it's important that the Committee show the same dogged determination that Mssrs. Dasbach & Bergland showed in the matter of Gene Cisewski in this similar breach-of-trust situation.

"Third, I urge the Committee to view with an extremely critical eye the responses to this inquiry provided by Steve Dasbach. While I've not been privy to his responses, I suspect a blanket denial on his part as to any knowledge of the matter.

"My experience is that Mssrs. Willis & Dasbach enjoy an intimate working relationship, and have since the early 1990's when Mr. Dasbach became Mr. Willis' boss. During the 2000 Browne campaign, for example, I'd often observe that Mr. Dasbach was far more familiar with the details of that campaign's strategy and direction than any member of the LNC, indicating to me and others a continued intimacy with Mr. Willis...

"Fourth, you asked for feedback relative to the manner of the inquiry itself.

"With all due respect to the efforts of the Chairman and the intent of the Committee, this inquiry is pointless in its current form. No respondent with anything to hide would give information that would implicate them, as evidenced by Mr. Browne's lack of cooperation.

"I strongly recommend that in August the Committee vote to employ a private investigation firm to obtain full and complete facts regarding the many important questions raised here, and insure that someone other than the national office (perhaps Bill Hall) be the person involved directly with the ongoing work of the investigators, rather than the national office staff.

"An investigation firm might have the ability to track other financial payments made by Mr. Dean's entities to other staff members, for example. We have no other way of getting this type of information."

In the letter, Tuniewicz continued by responding to questions of Lark about his own knowledge of the matter. With respect to Willis's secret work for Browne prior to the 1996 National Convention, Tuniewicz said that he had "...observed repeated representations made by Mssrs. Willis & Dasbach that no work took place..."

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(Continued from page 1) [Fredrickson]

45%. Going door-to-door with a street list a 100% rate has been attained. I urge Massachusetts Congressional candidates who insist on running with the Libertarian Party label to collect an absolute minimum of 6000 signatures, and 7500 to be on the safe side.”

Phillies noted if Fredrickson had registered ‘Unenrolled’ and run with a Party designation such as “Liberty Tree”, that Fredrickson would already be on the ballot. “With Minor Party Status, the validity rate is 80% or higher—90% in some towns. For my 1998 Congressional race when we were a minor party we collected 3100 raw signatures, yielding nearly 2400 valid signatures and ballot status for me.”

(Continued from page 1) [Look, Ma! No Income Tax!]

signs, honking horns and making our presence known, supporting the "civilians" who were doing the same.

About 10 days ago, on June 29th, we were joined almost for the first time by about 300 other folks, plus about 5 times as many cars and trucks and their drivers ...

The legislature backed down ...

All this was done without electing a **single** LP candidate to office ...

Just food for thought, folks!”

To which Richard ask adds: “Amazing what can be done when you have 60 City/County affiliates in a state.”

Asked how his state Libertarian Party did it, Trinward answered:

“Our guys here in the Volunteer State have been instrumental in stopping (not lowering or trimming) a state income tax dead in its tracks ... and making those legislators who thought they could slip one by us all (an early evening session after the local talk show hosts are off the air?), be very scared about their next election effort ...” and also

“* Participation both last year and this year in the protests, with signs specifically using "Libertarian" ... some of which had full website and name information on them.

* Having **all** of our LPTN endorsed candidates sign the "no income tax pledge" which was circulated by one of the talk radio shows which backed the anti-tax effort in 2000. (In doing so, we not only added to the size of the list of signers, but also shamed a number of our opponents into doing the same, and may have kept some of them from voting for it **this** time. (Both we and the talk show guys were poised to call a press conference condemning anyone who reneged on the pledge. The effect was similar to Paul Jacob and U.S. Term Limits holding Congressmen's feet to the fire last year ...)

* Constant presence out there pretty much every morning. Many days almost the **only** ones there besides the radio crew -- who were getting **paid** to be there --were LPTN members.

* Regular email contact among the activists, and **alerts** whenever the word went out (usually from the talk shows, sometimes from one of our "insider" legislators...)
* Emails (and sometimes phone-calls) to **every** legislator, either congratulating them for standing tall or chiding them for waffling. (Most of those were either not responded to or perhaps ignored, but for the few who did keep up the pressure and stuck by their principles, our support was welcomed and acknowledged.)

* Alerts throughout the state, to activists outside of Nashville, who showed up at various points (courthouses, city halls, etc.) to honk horns and hold signs ... to remind those out in the hinterlands that this was not just about the State House ...

* Emails, phone-calls and letters to our **own** legislators, both House and Senate, which had to add up over time. (Polite, and usually only after we had researched the person's position on the issue. I got responses to all of mine, and will vote accordingly. The Senate guy will **not** run opposed; even though he did not actually vote in favor of an income tax, he was extremely rude and officious in his response to me, when I dared suggest that he might be preparing to do so...)

* Invitations to several legislators, as well as the talk show hosts who were 'driving the bus' to speak at and/or attend our local county meeting. To this date, one state senator and one of the radio guys have come to at least one of our meetings, and a house member is scheduled to speak at next month's meeting.

This is all I can think of right now. Note that this required very little money (some gasoline, some posterboard, a little shoe leather, plus whatever Internet access and personal creativity we each could muster -- all of which was absorbed by the individuals involved), just a lot of time and energy, and a little organization from the grassroots level ...”

Was Fylstra Upset about Browne?

Before his resignation, National Vice Chair Dan Fylstra expressed his disapproval of the first resolution passed by the Party Executive Committee on the Browne scandal. In messages circulated to several eMail lists, Fylstra is quoted as saying “I now believe that my vote in favor [of the first motion] was a mistake that could hurt the LP. I believe we should rescind the resolution we passed, and simply **censure Willis and move on.**

The EC resolution is a very strong reaction (or overreaction) to Perry's published statement. The EC was also upset that certain people close to Perry, notably Harry Browne, may have known about Perry's disobeying the policy, but did not reveal what they knew to the LNC. Because of this last point, the resolution mentions "Browne and Willis" together

in points 1) and 2), even though it was only Perry Willis whose actions were governed by the LNC policy, and only Perry Willis who disobeyed it. This was, I believe, a mistake. In my judgment, there is **no** evidence that Harry Browne has done anything to warrant a prohibition of any kind from doing business with the LP. We had no policy obligating Harry Browne to inform the LNC about Perry's actions, and we have no right to impose such an obligation after the fact.

"I want to emphasize the importance of **moving on**. The LP has many challenges to face in the present and the immediate future. We're behind where we want to be in fundraising, and even in maintaining membership, let alone growing it. "The last thing we need right now is to get bogged down in some kind of "investigation" of events from five years ago.

Moreover, it would (rightly, IMO) anger many people who contributed their hard work, money and effort to the last (two) LP presidential campaigns, only to be "rewarded" by suspicion and hostility from other LPers. It would only cause us to lose more good Libertarian activists, which we can ill afford right now.

"The LP has already lost hundreds and hundreds of good activists, individuals who gave of their time, energy and money during the past two presidential cycles only to discover at one point or another that the system had been rigged against them.

"Please do not underestimate the damage that yet another "investigation" (or "witchhunt" or "purge", take your pick) would do to today's Libertarian Party. I personally know of far too many key activists who will resign from the Party, or end their activism, if we let this resolution stand, or even worse, cast suspicion on still more people.

Writing on the Browne-Willis scandal...

TRUST - Why it matters!

...Gail Lightfoot

Trust is a fragile but deeply felt and necessary part of any relationship. So, what should we do then when our trust is betrayed? This is exactly the situation facing the LP.

Some of us were not at all surprised to learn our own leaders and employees were subject to the same frailties as other political leaders. After all, we are realists to the extreme. Our reality based objective view of life gives us tools others may not have to deal with the battle we have chosen as our own - the battle for Liberty. We have noted the corruption that comes with power and prestige. We know all too well the danger of political corruption becoming absolute. We may not be surprised to see it occur within our own organization. Yet, in a way, we are because we grant to one another a level of trust we do not grant the average person we meet. After all, we think, this is a Libertarian. This person prefers persuasion to coercion. I can trust them to do the right thing, the morally correct, absolutely ethical thing. Right? Well, not always. Not only are few humans perfect, we live in an imperfect world where perfection may be penalized. We, Libertarians are expected to switch from the real to the ideal

constantly. If we did not we could not survive in the real world at all.

Now the reality of imperfection is before us in a way we are unable to ignore. The people involved acted to severely punish someone else within the LP for a violation of their trust. They used the legal system many of us believe is also riddled with corruption. Now we are pretty sure the very people who choose to use the government legal system to punish a party activist, instead of using our own internal system or simple exposure of the individual's wrongdoing, have lied to us. Their action effectively removed that person from LP activism, perhaps permanently (although freedom fighters have a way of bouncing back to fight again in another time or place). Such actions were unknown to the average member.

However, because the members are insulated from the email exchanges and web site letters, they will feel even more betrayed when they learn the truth about their LP heroes feet of clay. I suggest the individuals involved need to feel an equal amount of pain. If we, as the informed activists choose to do nothing now, those internal traitors to our ideals will remain heroes in the days to come. Is this a proper legacy to leave our future members and activists? I think not.

Unless we agree to tell all and expose the actions of each and every person involved in this massive scheme to accomplish their goals without bothering to persuade the rest of us they were valid goals, we will pay again and again in the future.

It is time to remove those involved from any position of trust, or monetary gain from their party membership or activism, including promoting their publications to the rank and file members of the LP.

We can and should turn our backs on those who violate our trust and refuse to do business with them in the future. Let them sink or swim on their own resources for a while as they have sent others to do while they enjoyed the prestige they withheld from (and/or actively prevented or destroyed) from others.

I do not enjoy giving up my heroes but if I choose to live consciously, it will happen from time to time. I know I can continue my life as a better person if I do judge my fellows and act according to that judgment. It may not mean I never associate with those who betray my trust. But, it surely means I will not trust them fully ever again.

This is the message we must sent to our rank and file members. We are aware of a serious violation of our trust and for that reason and that reason only these individuals have been replaced by others and will no longer be given the respect they enjoyed in the past.

...Gail Lightfoot Arroyo Grande, CA
LPCA Chair, 1990, 1995-96; 16 years on the LPCA Ex-Com; US Senate candidate, 2000; Secretary of State candidate 1998; 4 times a Congressional candidate