

Let Freedom Ring!

Volume 3 Number 10

Now on the Web at <http://www.cmlc.org>

October 2001

LNC Subsidized Browne!

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REPRINT PERMISSION: Libertarian organizations across the United States and elsewhere in the world are hereby authorized to reproduce in their own state, county, and local newsletters articles and complete sections from the *Libertarian Strategy Gazette*.

Let Freedom Ring! is in possession of documentation proving that the Libertarian National Committee gave Harry Browne's 1996 election campaign extensive financial support during the 1996 primary season, while Browne was still campaigning for our nomination against Rick Tompkins, Irwin Schiff, and Doug Ohmen for the Party nomination. There is significant evidence that the LNC repeated this support in 1999 during Browne's 2000 renomination campaign.

The support took the form of extended lines of credit from the LNC to Browne's 1996 campaign, permitting him to do extensive mailings to LNC lists without paying for them.

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Penn LP Votes to Shun Browne & Staff

On September 23, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania today voted 7-1 in favor of a resolution to withdraw its support and endorsement from half a dozen individuals and any organizations and or projects in which they may have management or policy-making roles.

The individuals, in alphabetical order, are Sharon Ayres, David Bergland, Harry Browne, Michael (Emerling) Cloud, Jack Dean, and Perry Willis. At least one of the named individuals is reported to have asked for the evidence on which the decision was based.

Ken Sturzenacker advises us that based on the discussion during the meeting, members of the Board consider the resolution a first -- rather than final -- step in encouraging libertarians across the nation to shun those who violated LNC policy and their fiduciary responsibilities during the 1996 Harry Browne for President campaign, and have both per-

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Mathias Wins Primary

Libertarian Craig Mathias of Ashland has won his primary, and advances to the special State Representative election in late October. He will be opposed by the winner of the 4-way Democratic primary — 'the most liberal' in the words of one observer — and a token Republican. Mathias brings to the race a range of prior political activities, including terms on the Ashland Town Finance Committee and the Ashland Selectboard (one year as Chairman).

In other libertarian news, National Member Jerry Horton of Worcester continues his City Council campaign. His far weaker 1999 campaign netted 46% of the vote.

Springfield Mayoral Race

Most of us don't get excited by the non-partisan, off-year elections. These odd-numbered years offer a bit of a respite from the hectic schedules and the incessant bombardment of campaign news that drain us the rest of the time. Local elections, of course, are important in their own way, even if the history of the world is not being altered.

Springfield is having a contested mayoral election this year, and it may be a close one. Mayor Mike (of mayormike.com) is facing a challenger that may be his downfall. By the time most of you read this, the primary may well be over and the two candidates remaining are the incumbent and State Representative Paul Caron (of paulcaron.org). Both are democrats, so who cares? Right? This actually could make a very big difference in the way the city is run and the determine the future of the region.

Albano is part of a tight-knit group of power mongers who are seeking to transform the

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(Continued from page 1) [LNC Funded Browne]

mailings until after he became the Party's nominee. According to the Party's filings with the Federal Election Commission, the loans began in January 1996 when the Browne campaign incurred a debt of \$7111 to the LNC for list rental, but only paid \$3568 of it. In the next five months, Browne's campaign repeatedly used LNC lists, running up additional debts to the LNC of \$1866 in February, \$1398 in March, \$2448 in April, and \$1931 in June, finally paying the LNC \$11,185.01 on July 3, 1996, after Browne had secured the Presidential nomination.

In 1996 the Party was very short of money. In May 1996, the Party ended the month with nearly \$210,000 in debts and barely \$1,000 cash on hand. Even under this fiscal pressure, the LNC let the Browne campaign use its mailing list without timely payment.

Only the Browne Campaign received this sort of treatment. 1996 candidate Rick Tompkins reports requesting the party's mailing list, being given delays and excuses, and finally being sent an unusable magnetic disk. He never mailed. In 2000, the Gorman Campaign was required to pay in advance.

In 1996, the cognizant National Party Officers were National Chair Steve Dasbach, National Treasurer Hugh Butler, and National Director Perry Willis. Willis has admitted being secretly in the pay of the Browne Campaign. It is difficult to understand how the National Chair and National Treasurer could have been unaware of the loans, given that the loans are clearly and unambiguously described in the Party's monthly FEC filings.

Why did it take so long to discover the LNC's support of the Browne Campaign? On one hand, Browne's 1996 filings state that the campaign had no outstanding debts or obligations. Only relatively recently did FEC reports become available on the web. No one suspected that the LNC would be so brazen about its support for Browne, so no one checked LNC' filings.

How was the financial support discovered? Your editor in preparing his book on the Browne nominations scandal noted that in early 1996 Browne had had large printing and mailing expenses, but reported almost no expenses for list rental. This anomaly raised suspicions. Our sources on the LNC confirm that in response to our inquiries the actual invoices and payment dates were found, showing the 1996 LNC supported Browne. Browne's 2000 Campaign's FEC reports have anomalies similar to those seen in 1996.

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city into a tourist town. His base is the downtown real estate moguls, restaurateurs, bar owners and the like. He has bet his career that Springfield can draw money in from other cities and states to prosper by the redistribution of wealth. He has forsaken a manufacturing economy that is some three hundred years old and is attempting to destroy it to realize his vision. He is gambling the future of the entire region to further his political goals.

Albano's schemes include the convention/civic center, a baseball stadium, a casino, the Basketball Hall of Fame, Union Station and other similar ideas. Thankfully, most have been failures. His only vision is to lobby for state money to create large quasi-government organizations that will benefit his cronies.

The FBI is investigating corruption in Springfield as are other federal agencies. There is a housing scandal. Cops and teachers buy houses with a taxpayer subsidy on the condition that they will live in them. They rent them out for profit. Loans from federal grants are given out to mobsters and cronies of the chief of staff. They get the loans in spite of the fact that they have defaulted on previous loans. Most people call this stealing but it's okay with the Albano gang. Albano was rebuked and chastised by Judge Sweeney on her ruling about the baseball stadium. She politely referred to his fraudulent schemes as "deliberately deceptive." This is hardly a ringing endorsement for a mayor unless you happen to be a Clintonite.

Caron is running because, in an off year, his rep job is safe. Simply put, the mayor's job pays more money. Caron would make about a third more money than he is making now. Not surprisingly, the biggest pay raise the office ever saw was granted during the Albano administration. A Caron administration would be similar to Albano's but with less corruption and fewer wacky ideas. He can win the election if he is willing to throw mud. It will stick to his opponent but Caron should remain clean. It's a sad truth but he will have to expose the mayor's true colors to have him fired by the voters. He will also have to get by the Springfield newspaper's management.

The significance of all this will be seen after the election. In January, Albano could be out on his ass. With an open seat in the state legislature, there would be a special election in early 2002. Turnout should be incredibly low and any Libertarian willing to run could make a good showing. Caron's district is entirely within Springfield's wards 5, 7, and 8.

...Pit Warren

(Continued from page 1) [Shun Browne?]

petrated a cover-up and continued denials that continue even now.

The full text of the resolution is

"Whereas, certain individuals associated with the Libertarian Party conspired to violate National Libertarian Party policy, libertarian principles, and normal standards of business ethics, and

Whereas, we have in the past supported, promoted and endorsed these individuals by our official actions and in our publications and appeals, and

Whereas, we have an obligation to keep our membership informed;

Therefore, we the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania withdraw any expressed or implied endorsement of any of these individuals or organizations or projects in which they are involved.

The individuals are, in alphabetical order:

Sharon Ayres
David Bergland
Harry Browne
Michael (Emerling) Cloud
Jack Harris Dean
Perry Willis

Additional people may be named as future evidence warrants."

The 8 LPPa Board members are Lois Kaneshiki, John Famularo, Phil Janusz, Della Croft, Ken Sturzenacker, Mike Nixson, Jim Pisano, and Harold Kyriazi. Members of the LPPa's board made clear they believe other individuals may also be named in connection with these events at later dates.

LNC Financial Crisis

Our sources in the Watergate report that the Libertarian National Committee's financial crisis has deepened. September fundraising is uncertain to hit \$100,000, under 40% of budget, implying a yearly income last seen in 1995. At least 9/15-9/21 income was no worse than the week before. The Party cashed its next-to-last certificate of deposit to make a September payroll. Observers ask how the National Party can cover its November UMP payments. While waiting to see if several fund drives have worked, the National Treasurer has reportedly ordered the staff "pay no more bills". Postage money for Archimedes II seems hard to find. The LNC is seemingly not inclined to "second guess why we're experiencing such a drastic downturn". Could it be that members are voting with their wallets?

In Vegas... Everything is a gamble

Our Nevada Correspondent writes:

Having a few dollars earmarked for nothing in particular, I decided to travel from my hometown of Allentown, Pennsylvania to Las Vegas, Nevada and see what goes on at a Libertarian National Committee meeting. I had no preconceived notions, but I did know that over the past few months several issues had unfolded within the party that should make for an interesting meeting. The Perry Willis debacle was making the Party of Principle look like, well, like the Democrats and it is no secret that membership is in a steady decline. So, I wondered, how would our leaders choose to handle these crises?

The meeting was called to order at 8 am on August 25. My flight arrived late and I missed the first two hours of the meeting. I came in time for the report of the Strategic Planning Team. The goals of the plan were outlined along with the announcement that members of the Strategic Planning Team would be traveling to each state to outline the plan to the state party officials. The goals of the Strategic Plan are as follows:

1. Increase the number of Libertarians holding public office.
2. Strengthen Libertarian Party state and local organizations
3. Increase the Libertarian Party's support base (members, contributors, volunteers).
4. Increase the Libertarian Party's market share among youth.
5. Increase public awareness of, acceptance of, and support for Libertarian ideas.
6. Remain the Party of Principle as we grow.

If these ideas do not sound new to you, join the club. They are not new. The first step in creating a plan is acknowledging those things that have been tried and failed. Lois Kaneshiki was the first to point that

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fact out and somewhat intemperately informed the Strategic Planning Team that they could save the bus fare to Pennsylvania because things were going fine there, thank you very much. Pennsylvania is second only to California in the number of Libertarian candidates running for public office. Ms. Kaneshiki has been a proponent of decentralizing the party and allowing each state to operate as it sees fit. This should not be a foreign idea to a party that asks the same of the Federal government.

If we are to ever become a viable political party the stale rhetoric of strategic planners must be replaced by the actions of professionals who have actually won elections on a National level, to advise this party and give real direction. The most important goal of the plan, and arguably the only one we should focus on, is to increase the number of Libertarians in public office. It is time we acted like a political party and less like a social club. (Any of you going on Ken Bisson's \$3000 per person Libertarian cruise? This will no doubt bring in candidates by the Lexus-full.) Races won at the local level coupled with successful high profile races serve to bring attention to the LP. With those successes, the other goals are easily achieved.

Bill Winter's report on the LP News highlighted the success of the 25 top Libertarian Songs article that appeared in the August issue. This sort of light-hearted outreach material may be worth looking into providing it is not a costly venture. Mr. Winter also did a small presentation concerning branding the LP, which is also touched upon in the Strategic Plan. There is a need for the LP to streamline its image with voters. Having a logo that is easily identifiable along with signature issues, such as the ending the drug war, will assist voters in identifying with our candidates and will serve to solidify our image. The striking thing about the concept of branding the party coupled with the Strategic Plan is that this party is 30 years old and time is being devoted to issues that should have been addressed 29 years ago. This is tantamount to spinning our wheels.

Day two was devoted for the most part to the discussion of the Willis matter. Motions to extend the time devoted to this issue occurred several times. Prior to the discussion, Jim Babka asked to read a statement on behalf of Mr. Willis. There were several objections, but the vote was in favor of allowing Mr. Babka to speak. In the letter Mr. Willis took the posture of a suppliant, asking for forgiveness for having caused so much trouble and for the time that had been taken away from party business to investigate this matter. It is my opinion that this letter was well received though admittedly late in coming.

The first of the resolutions censuring Mr. Willis was penned by Elias Israel. It was an impotent document that amounted to nothing more than a 'naughty, naughty boy' scolding.

[GP: The full text of Israel's motion as reported Joe Dehn reads:

"Whereas John Famularo has presented evidence to the Libertarian National Committee on April 21, 2001 that Perry Willis, while National Director of the Libertarian Party, performed work for the 1996 Harry Browne for President campaign in violation of LNC rules,

And whereas Perry Willis subsequently admitted that he had indeed performed such work, in contradiction to his previous statements,

And whereas no additional evidence has been presented to the Libertarian National Committee on this matter concerning Perry Willis or any other Libertarian,

Therefore, the Libertarian National Committee hereby censures Perry Willis for performing said work on the 1996 Harry Browne for President campaign while employed as Libertarian National Director, and for denying to his employer that he had done so.

We also resolve that neither the Libertarian National Committee nor the National Director shall engage Perry Willis directly as either an employee or a contractor for a minimum period of two (2) years.

We further resolve that Perry Willis and organizations with which he may be affiliated may only purchase advertising in LP News and/or rent the Libertarian national mailing list subject to the terms and conditions required in the LNC policy manual for external customers.

The Libertarian National Committee further resolves that this issue is closed, and no further action shall be taken unless additional credible evidence is presented to the committee."

(It is of interest to point out here that Mr. Israel is from Massachusetts - home of Mr. Cloud, who is running a campaign for Senate led by honorary chairman, Harry Browne.) The final document had more tooth, but not much. Willis was censured for embarrassing this party, violating its bylaws, conspiring, and lying to cover it all up.

The second resolution up for approval was admonishing the other key players: Browne, Ayers, Cloud, and Dean for refusing to cooperate with the investigation.

Mention was made of Dasbach and Winter, but it was voted to remove their names because, in the opinion of the board, they had cooperated. There was no discussion of the nature of the supposed LNC investigation. Mr. Lark mentioned that he had conducted his own investigation, but the details and results were not offered. Ms. Kaneshiki voiced her concerns that no real discussion or examination of the evidence occurred, especially interesting in light of the fact that most of the board members raised their hands when asked who had read Mr. Famularo's timeline.

Mr. Givot composed and presented a resolution attempting to admonish Mr. Famularo for not cooperating with the investigation and withholding evidence. Mr. Famularo produced the invoice that exposed this corruption as well as providing a timeline of actions perpetrated by Willis, et al. How this translates to impeding the investigation and withholding evidence is a mystery to me. Givot's motion failed; not by a large margin, I might add. This attempt to smear Mr. Famularo's name was most interesting to an observer, because it left the impression that it is ok to violate our rules, rip the party off, and conspire to cover it up, but not ok to blow the whistle on this behavior. The Party of Principle, indeed!

I had expected to hear a report from Mr. Martin concerning the budget but as I mentioned I missed the first two hours of day one. I was informed that the first 30 minutes of day one were devoted to the Treasurer's report. Thirty minutes. That is amazing considering this party is operating on a deficit that is in the neighborhood of \$425,000 relative to projections through the end of June. In the report that was filed online, there was only data up to June even though the meeting was held the last weekend of August. A prospecting letter is due out in the month of October, but considering the events of September 11th it is unlikely that we can expect donors to have much discretionary income to throw our way. That, coupled with membership numbers expected to dip below 30,000 this year, paints a dismal picture of this party's financial situation. In my opinion the Libertarian Party's fiscal and membership problems can be directly attributable to the Willis matter—the actions of a small group of people that for some odd reason are now being protected by a core group on the LNC.

The fallout of what is referred to as the 'Willis Affair' has taken on new momentum. On September 23, 2001 the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania voted to disassociate with those individuals identified as participating in this scandal. Pennsylvania is home to many long-term members with great memo-

ries and some of the loudest cries for a full investigation of this entire matter. With little opposition, the LPPa Board of Directors passed a letter of disassociation. There is optimism that this letter will cause other states to follow suit and evaluate their dealings with the aforementioned individuals.

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania intends, through a series of articles in its newsletter Libertarian Penn, to inform and educate the general membership about the events leading to their decision to disassociate from these individuals. An editorial page will be provided to give voice to dissent and to answer questions.

There have been complaints from some of the general membership and also from members of the LNC itself that we should put this matter behind us and move on. To them it must be said that this matter will be put to rest when a full investigation has been completed, all questions have been answered, and appropriate punishments handed out. The Party of Principle must operate according to our high standards of conduct, exposing even our own corruption to the light of day. ...Della S. Croft

A message publicly circulated to the PALibernet@yahoo.com email list by long-time Pennsylvania Libertarian Henry Haller reinforced Della Croft's interpretation. Haller wrote:

Some thoughts on how we in Pennsylvania should react to recent actions of the LNC:

- We clearly have a serious problem at the national level with the people now serving on the LNC. They obviously are doing the minimum possible to deal with the Perry Willis situation short of ignoring it altogether. More generally, they seem to be running the LP more like a private club, for their own benefit, than as a national membership-based organization.

- Recognizing that, I think that disaffiliation is much too drastic a step at this time. I would hate to see Pa. end up in a situation like what has been occurring in Arizona. It could do great harm to our state party as well as the national organization, and certainly would set us back in our pursuit of a freer society. (I like John Famularo's suggestion of disassociating from those who are the source of the problem rather than disaffiliating all together.) I would recommend waiting at least until after the next national convention. My hope would be that now that this information is now more publicly available, the convention delegates will be willing to clean house and elect a whole new LNC that will be more respectful of ethics and principles.

Let Freedom Ring!

- To make that more likely, we should do our part to disseminate what is happening as widely as possible. Perhaps a special edition of *Libertarian Penn*, or even just a letter to the membership, could be sent out so everyone here knows what is happening. I also like Tim Moir's idea of a motion of censure of the LNC to be passed by our state board, and affirmed at our state convention. If this happens, we should make an attempt to have it published in *LP News*.

- It is most distressing to realize how accurate was Lord Acton's insight on corruption ("Power corrupts, ..."), and that it applies even to libertarians.
...Henry Haller

Where Your Money Went

Carla Howell's Massachusetts Ballot Initiative to end the state income tax promises "We are thrifty and frugal", we have "Donors to match every dollar you donate...We'll match every dollar you donate." and "Your \$500 dollar donation today will pay for 208 signatures." Just think. Your \$500 donation brings \$1000 to Howell's initiative committee, letting them hire petitioners to gather 208 signatures, for which they are paying \$1 per signature. There's no frugality like Massachusetts frugality.

Over the past year we have covered the spending efforts of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, the Federal PAC of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party. MALP also has a state PAC, which files as the Massachusetts Libertarian State Committee (MLSC). *Let Freedom Ring!* has procured copies of the State filings of MLSC, which show even more of that fine Massachusetts state frugality.

In 2000, MLSC started the year with \$9,734 and took in \$23,916. 2000 was an election year. The MLSC did support its party's candidates for partisan office, namely \$100 each to the legislative campaigns of Al Wilcox, Kamal Jain, Patrick El-Azem, Vera Meyer, Ilana Freedman, Dave Rizzo, Francis Mackay-Smith, Richard Yampell, Ron Bargoot, Dan McKenzie and Joe Fischetti ... \$1100 in all. Of course, during 2000 Meyer, Jain, and McKenzie gave MLSC \$800. And when Vera Meyer dissolved her committee, she gave back \$263 to the State Committee.

Result: In 2000 the Massachusetts Libertarian State Committee actually spent a net grand total of \$37 of its own money supporting its Party's candidates, out of spending (net of candidate donations) of \$10,864.) That's 34 hundredths of a cent on a dollar.

We are discussing the State Party of National Chair candidate Eli Israel, Libertarian fundraiser extraordinaire Michael Cloud, and widely-rumored 2004 Liber-

tarian Presidential candidate Carla Howell. And here we see the State Party's record on candidate support. It's almost nonexistent, even before you notice that most of the money they "gave" to candidates was raised from candidates. The Liberty Tree Small Government Low Taxes Political Action Committee, created by members of a Western Massachusetts supper club, gave more than ten times as much candidate support in 2000.

Expenditures included \$497 for 1999 meetings, \$715 for a March dinner meeting, \$209 for a June state committee meeting, \$276 for a September State Committee meeting, and \$510 in December for a state committee meeting and conference call. That's over \$2000 for State Committee meetings. In December 2000 MLSC also gave \$1000 to 'Promise To Keep', a ballot question committee.

Printing and mailing costs included \$2030 in February to send convention notices and \$4553 in March for printing and mailing meeting notices. Legal fees amounted to \$1372 in June.

2001 is ongoing, so I can only report partial spending totals for the Massachusetts Libertarian State Committee. But such totals they are! The Party began 2001 with \$21,764.

Convention spending included \$1743 for phone calls in February, \$1294 for more calls in early March, \$6370 to American Express in May, \$1750 in June to Leading Authorities of Washington, D.C. for a Speaker's Fee, and a \$1000 deposit in July for the 2000 Convention—that's almost \$12,000.

State Committee meetings included \$125 in May and \$119 in June. Legal expenses included \$2155 in February, \$2377 in early May, \$712 in late May, \$2140 in June, and \$2115 in July...more than \$9000.

Other expenses included \$600 in May for candidate recruitment telephone calls, \$690 in June for more calls, \$2960 in June for Postage, \$3772 in early July for printing and mailing, and \$2061 in late July for printing and mailing. By the end of July the State Committee was down to \$12,092 cash on hand.

Not one penny went to support the State Representative campaign of Craig Mathias, who in 2000 gave the State Party \$1150.

If you want more big spending, low efficiency (\$5 to buy a signature) campaigns and referenda, the Massachusetts State Party has a positive record. If you want spending that actually goes to support people running for office, you need to look someplace else.

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