



Report on  
LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

by  
KATHY McADAM

The following article is an account of the National LP Convention held in NYC from Aug. 25 - Sept. 1. More complete details on seminars, lectures, and the new National Platform will follow in future issues.

On Monday evening August 25, approximately 150 people attended the first event of the busy convention week: a panel discussion on OIL AND POLITICS featuring historian Joe Peden as the moderator and panelists Dr. Murray Rothbard (economist and author), Dennis Turner (commodities broker), Roy Childs (author and associate editor of LIBERTARIAN REVIEW), and Bill Evers (LP NEWS editor).

Tuesday morning the committee hearings began for the Platform Committee, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules Committee, and the Credentials Committee. (Hearings on the Platform continued throughout most of the next two days and evenings)

Also beginning on Tuesday were the Action Workshops and the "Free Lunch" Series. (The only complaint I had was that there was so much happening on Tuesday and Wednesday that there was no way to attend everything. Each time I had to choose between concurrent events, it was a very difficult decision.)

The ACTION WORKSHOPS covered a variety of topics: Campaign management; Campaigns and Candidates; Fund Raising; Public Speaking; Ballot Drives; Newsletters; Campus Organizing; Organizing and Action; Audio-Visual Techniques; Communications; Libertarian Bookstores.

The "FREE LUNCH" SERIES from Tuesday through Sunday were The Gold Standard; Congressional Aides; Education Panel; Legalization of Drugs; Feminism Panel; Libertarian Folksongs; and Arbitration.

On Tuesday evening the featured attraction was the GREAT AVERAGE WORKING PERSON'S ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, a presentation of "practical value to people of average means." Speakers were accountant Robert Steiner on taxes, coin dealer Greg Clark on gold, and money manager Charles Blood on the relationship between the business cycle and the presidential election years. A panel discussion followed with Charles Blood, political scientist and author David Friedman, Wall Street economist Henry Wojtyla, and Alan Reynolds (Associate editor of NATIONAL REVIEW and contributing editor of REASON magazine).

A bus tour of Manhattan on Wednesday night went past the FLP office, Ayn Rand's apartment house, and other sites of interest to libertarians and stopped at Laissez Faire Books for a reception.

Also on Wednesday evening, Kay Harroff and Roger MacBride, two of the candidates for the LP presidential nomination, held "open houses". Kay answered questions from the delegates throughout the evening, and Roger hosted a cocktail party to meet the delegates.

Breakfast lectures began on Thursday morning with David Friedman's discussion of Robert Nozick's ANARCHY, STATE, AND UTOPIA (highlighted by some unexpected comments from the author). Breakfast speakers for the rest of the week were Dr. D.T. Armentano, author of THE MYTHS OF ANTI-TRUST, on "Capitalism - Retrospect and Prospect"; Mark Tier from the Workers Party, the new Australian libertarian party; and Jeffrey St. John, author and syndicated columnist, on "The American vs. The French Revolution: Which Way For the West?"

The First General Session of the convention began on Thursday morning with welcoming speeches by Gary Greenberg, Chairperson of the Free Libertarian Party of NY, Edward H. Crane, Chairperson of the National LP, and remarks by David Nolan, founder of the LP.

The Keynote Speech "A Bill Of Goods" was delivered by Dr. John Hospers, the LP's first candidate for President.

The General Sessions lasting till midnight on Thursday and till 1 A.M. on Friday were devoted to debate on the party PLATFORM. The resulting platform includes stronger planks on Taxation, Amnesty, and Due Process for the Criminally Accused and new planks on Victimless Crimes, Freedom of Religion, Government Secrecy, and Internal Security and Civil Liberties.

The two days of hard work and dedication were climaxed by the adoption by acclamation (after a standing ovation) of a new plank proposed by Robert Nozick as the final plank of the platform:

OMISSIONS

"Our silence about any other particular governmental law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval."

The three presidential candidates addressed the Convention on Thursday and also met with delegates for candidates debates.

KAY HARROFF emphasized that in her campaign she would force debate on principles and stated that "it's important if we are going to reach a great number of the public...that the issue will be the issue." She said she would go into the campaign with the idea of winning because she would give her total commitment.

GUY RIGGS said he would emphasize that the Declaration of Independence is our document. We are the only party properly celebrating the Bi-Centennial year. He stated that today "it is almost impossible to have a society of contract, freely made and freely kept," and that is primarily why he has proposed his con-

tract with the LP. He said that outside reaction to his contract proposal has been very good because people believe that it opens the field not only to those who can afford it.

ROGER MACBRIDE declared that "There is no substitute for telling it like it is. We cannot compromise in any particular whatsoever...Anything less than waving the banner will result in a mediocre campaign with mediocre results... People want to know what specifically is going to happen to their lives if we put our principles into effect...I'll spend all my time discussing these issues..." He also stated that the presidential campaign must be tied in closely with building the state parties because that is the only way that we will be more than a flash in the pan.

The three vice-presidential candidates also addressed the Convention on Thursday and participated in two debates-- one on Fri. afternoon and one during the wee hours of Sat. morning.

TONIE NATHAN reminded us she is the first woman to ever receive an electoral vote (as LP vice-presidential candidate in 1972). She emphasized that she has written many articles in the past which prove that she has been a libertarian long before there was a LP. She explained that she voted against the homosexuality clause because we should not put anything in our platform sanctioning any specific life styles, and she stated that she is in favor of amnesty on a case by case basis because enlistment is a contract.

JIM TROTTER stated that he has given hard currency investment seminars and mentioned his leftist background and his ability to communicate with people on all sides of the political spectrum. He declared that he would spend 75% of his time during the first half of the campaign and then 100% for the rest of the campaign.

MANNY KLAUSNER, a lawyer and editor of REASON magazine, mentioned his civil liberties route to libertarianism and the fact that he was one of the organizing members of the Peace and Freedom Party in California. He pledged to devote 7 full weeks to the campaign plus a minimum of one local speaking engagement per week and one out of town speaking engagement per month.

Friday evening during the General Session, a delegate from Virginia, PATRICK HENRY, addressed the Convention -- as Marshall Bruce Evoy in full patriot costume performed a stirring re-enactment of Patrick Henry's "give me liberty or give me death" speech (Bruce said later that it was the best ever because he knew that the audience was with him. By popular demand a repeat performance was held on Sunday night.)

NOMINATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES took place on Saturday morning with the press and cameramen covering the entire affair (especially visible were the CBS television cameras).

Joe Cobb of Illinois nominated ROGER MACBRIDE FOR PRESIDENT. "...We will not win the office in 1976, so why are we playing this game? Are we pretending just for the fun of it?..."

"The power of the federal government has been used to control, rob, and kill human beings. This is no sport. This is not children's play. We are here today because we believe that each of us... must stand and draw a sword against the government of the United States...."

"Today we will choose a candidate who must be able to carry that sword... Roger MacBride has proved that he can...."

"Consider his credentials -- this country cannot screen out Roger MacBride!..."

Ed Clark of California seconded MacBride's nomination.

"... Libertarians know him and respect him. ... He is experienced in all facets of media... he is writing another book for this campaign... He was unrudded and articulate in presenting our message... through 20 states in the last 2 years..."

"He wishes to help build the party at the grass roots level ... MacBride is fully qualified to be president. Very few minor parties have the ability (to field a qualified candidate) ... He will be able to ask the tough detailed questions..."

Fran Youngstein of New York seconded MacBride's nomination.

"... Roger is a libertarian and he is real ... his commitment is to libertarian principles and actions... consider his political astuteness... He will not waver on any question... I know of no one more willing and able to do that..."

Then "New York, the anti-state delegation" had a nomination. Serena Stockwell nominated GUY RIGGS FOR PRESIDENT.

"...the very first person in the whole country to run as a Libertarian Party candidate... remember, he said this first: 'What would I do for you as your Assemblyman? Absolutely nothing! In the long run, there's not a thing any legislator can do for you. He can only prevent things from being done to you...'"

"I'm voting for him because of his idea for a Contract between the LP and its candidate....Hiring a presidential candidate will show by our actions as well as our words that we're consistent when we talk about the free market and doing things only if they're mutually beneficial... Hiring our Presidential candidate will say to the voters: Our candidate may, in fact, be a millionaire or even a billionaire, but he doesn't have to be... Why should a 'free' politician be treated with any less suspicion than a free lunch?... Free market politics is not a contradiction in terms. Let's show why we're different. Let's show why we're consistent. Let's hire Guy Riggs as our Salesman of Liberty!"

John James of Colorado in his seconding speech said: "Guy Riggs is not giving us anything but he does have a hell of a lot to sell." Art O'Sullivan of New York stated that the contract idea fully represents the free market principles.

Hank Hohenstein, prominent tax rebel, nominated KAY HARROFF FOR PRESIDENT stating that Kay is a candidate that can arouse emotions and commitments even from those having doubts. "She

is eloquent in the simplicity of her words," and the basic speech she used in her senatorial campaign is principled libertarianism.

Lynn Kinsky of California seconded Kay Harroff's nomination stating that "Kay is dynamite... She can speak equally well to university professors and day laborers... She projects the basic humanism of the libertarian philosophy..." and we must have a candidate that can turn people on. Kay is dynamic and articulate and can inspire that dedication.

Sandy Cohen stated the Kay is a professional amateur. She will not compromise ever. She does not have a nickle. She does not have connections. She can speak to any group and convince them.

The results of the ballot for the presidential nomination were as follows: MacBride 142, Harroff 62, Riggs 34, None of the Above 2, Abstentions 4. MACBRIDE WAS NOMINATED.

With MACBRIDE FOR PRESIDENT signs waving and the band playing, Roger MacBride entered the convention room to deliver his acceptance speech.

Introduced as the man who should be the next President of the United States, MacBride promised a campaign that would begin that very minute and would be "a presidential campaign the likes of which this nation has never seen." "There is going to be no compromise of principles" he declared. "Our libertarian ideas built this country and are deep in the heart of every American... We will make understood our libertarian ideals... to understand them can only be to agree with them... Our ideas are as old as the 1776 revolution and as young as tomorrow morning."

MacBride then attacked government regulation and especially criticized the campaign financing laws and the attempts at censorship of the media declaring "If I have anything to say about it America will not be crushed by this velvet vice." He urged the immediate abolition of all of the present functions of the FCC and emphasized that the "time for reform is now. In a few years it may be too late."

MacBride said "It is essential to describe the brick by brick" steps by which we "can roll back big government at the fastest possible pace... We will therefore... stress the ideal first and as the inspiration... (but we will outline) the transitional policies... I advocate rapid transition as opposed to chaotic change..."

He declared "We must unite because I need you and we need each other... (We are already united by) the desire to be free to seek our individual life styles... to keep the product of our labors... We are united in our devotion to the libertarian cause... (We have) an army of principles that can and will carry where an army of soldiers cannot... there is no obstacle that can or will arrest its progress... This our army of principles will march upon the horizon of America and it will conquer."

Saturday afternoon brought the vice-presidential nominations. Dr. Murray Rothbard nominated MANNY KLAUSNER FOR VICE-PRESIDENT stating "he is one of my oldest and best friends... I know no person who exhibits more personal honesty and integrity. He will not bend a knee to any group..." Rothbard then stated that Roger MacBride had said "I have evaluated the candidates and I have come to the conclusion that Manny Klausner best exhibits the qualities I desire."

Klausner's nomination was seconded by a woman from NY who emphasized that Klausner understands and shows great concern for the black members of the country.

William White of California said that Klausner is seasoned in the complete spectrum of libertarian ideas and knows how to communicate with others who are not libertarian.

Karl Bray, noted tax rebel from Utah, nominated JIM TROTTER FOR VICE-PRESIDENT declaring that Trotter is "one of the newest, brightest libertarians... He is without any mixed premises... and is competent and highly motivated... He can appeal to the college student on the new left."

Mike Holmes of Texas seconded the nomination saying that Trotter is "honest, sincere, rational and persuasive," and Porter Davis of Oklahoma emphasized that we need a vice-presidential candidate to work full time and Trotter will work full time on campaigning. Davis said that "it is difficult to think of a more balanced ticket."

Pipp Boyls of Colorado nominated TONIE NATHAN FOR VICE-PRESIDENT saying that she is "articulate and can create that kind of spirit which is libertarianism." He emphasized that women candidates have outperformed male candidates and are largely able to communicate the libertarian vision better than the male candidates.

Pat Artz of Washington emphasized the need for a balanced ticket and stated "I've seen her function on many occasions... the image that she projects is the same spirit of our philosophy... No candidate can cover all the issues. Her own sense of life will reach more voters than all the speeches."

Sandy Cohen of New York stated "She is a beautiful woman - physically and intellectually... an inspiration... she is capable...and could take the helm" if necessary.

The results of the first ballot for the vice-presidential nomination: Trotter 97, Klausner 85, Nathan 45, None of the Above 1, Abstentions 10.

At the beginning of the second ballot for vice-president, Roger MacBride asked to address the delegates. He said that "...there have been rumors that if Trotter became the vice-presidential nominee that I would veto him..." He acknowledged that the rumor was correct and explained his reasons as follows: "Several days ago I said I would have no preference... last night after talking with them... (I came to the conclusion)... I prefer Manny Klausner... and Tonie Nathan would be acceptable..."

Trotter was a frank and honest and personable fellow. He concealed nothing from me... However in his personal life are some problems which he freely admitted... He has failed to file tax returns for some years... (Ed. This remark was met by rousing applause from the delegates)... and he freely admitted that he had engaged in smuggling activities..."

MacBride then emphasized that if Trotter became the vice-presidential candidate, "We will have a one issue campaign... This is ... not a tax rebel party per se. We have more to say than that..."

He acknowledged that "This is the single hardest decision in my entire life... I am a student of history. I have been involved in politics... I think I can carry the message capably..."

MacBride continued "...Trotter had said he would withdraw his nomination... but then later said that his advisors asked him to let the delegation make the choice. I tried to re-argue with him... but Jim was firm in his resolve to let the matter go to the convention..."

MacBride then stated again that he would veto Trotter's nomination. "I have great admiration for him and for those who are sticking by him. I do not expect everyone to agree with me."

Jim Trotter then addressed the delegates and stated that it is true that he did not file in 72-74 but that he had had little or no income at the time. He declared "I am not a tax rebel... I respect Roger's position 100%... The problem of presidential candidates having the veto power has to be dealt with in the future... I never disguised the fact that I never filed but I did not bring it up... some of you did not know it... In no way do I want the party to be split... to be diluted or set back at all... I ran because I felt I was the best candidate... I am willing to withdraw... and ask my supporters to please support Tonie Nathan."

After short speeches by the two remaining vice-presidential candidates, Karl Bray spoke to the delegates as follows: "Both Roger and Jim have reached correct decisions... It is correct to challenge the State... however the issue of tax revolt is so volatile and potentially destructive to the LP at this point in its life... I do not want to see this party labeled as a tax revolt party. We are much wider than that... the proper time will come to make these challenges--publically--fully, but in the meantime...I hope that you have no bitterness and will unite behind our candidates...Our freedom depends upon it."

The results of the second ballot for the vice-presidential nomination were: Nathan 110, Klausner 87, None of the Above 30, Abstentions 8. No majority was reached. (during the voting, Dave Long, Chairperson of the Massachusetts LP announced the delegates' votes as follows: "Massachusetts, home of John Hancock, well-known colonial smuggler...")

The delegates then voted to open the floor to new nominations. John Vernon was nominated (but apparently without being seconded). Ed Crane, Chairperson, pleaded for recess till the morning, and the convention adjourned.

Sat. evening the delegates were busy trying to discover who was 35 years old and could be considered as potential vice-presidential candidates. Rumors also circulated among the delegates that Roger had stated that he would also veto John Vernon because Vernon is gay. (Ed. According to Art O'Sullivan of the FLP, Vernon said that Roger told him he would veto his nomination.)

Saturday night the delegates were treated to a delightful theatrical benefit called "Trash" and the Society for Individual Liberty's cocktail party was crowded beyond belief. Many delegates also saw the convention coverage on CBS and NBC tv.

Sunday morning the Nominations for additional vice-presidential candidates began when Gary Greenberg nominated WALTER BLOCK FOR VICE-PRESIDENT. He stated that Walter is "a libertarian of long-standing. He has been Professor of Economics at Baruch College, ... a writer for Business Week magazine, ... and one of the party's candidates for the NY State Assembly in 1972..."

Greenberg then continued: "...I want a team of candidates who will help us smash the state before it smashes me. Last night I saw the television coverage on CBS and NBC. I saw how fantastic Roger will be as a candidate - Straight Hardcore statement of our ideas in a manner that is credible to the public. I want a Vice Presidential candidate who will best compliment that effort."

"Yesterday, as we know, Roger vetoed the nomination of one of our very popular candidates, Jim Trotter. I disagreed vehemently with the exercise of that veto and just as strongly with the reasoning. But ... I don't expect 'perfection' from our candidates but I do demand integrity. And Yesterday, Roger came before the delegates of this convention, and exercised the most unpopular decision he could make in front of his constituency. He was frank and open about exactly why he made that decision, and I thank Roger for meeting my demand for integrity. ...He told us the truth and we can demand no more..."

"This convention either in its wisdom or collective lack of same has permitted the Presidential candidate to exercise a veto. No one came to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and urged a change. Nobody even insisted that the veto be for rational reasons. We set the rules. We play by them. I have not cleared Dr. Block's name with Roger nor do I intend to. And if he vetoes Walter Block, I will continue to put forth new qualified candidates either until I run out of candidates or Roger runs out of vetoes...The cause of freedom is too important for me to pick up my marbles and sit on my hands because I can't have my way. I would rather live free in disagreement than sit in chains knowing I was right..."

Joe Cobb seconded Block's nomination saying that any single issue candidate is a bad choice. Walter is a multi-issue candidate."

Walter Block began his address to the delegates: "I had this dream last night. Ayn Rand asked me if I had any skeletons in my closet...." He declared that he is an anarcho-capitalist and emphasized that we are here to rescue America not to attack it. He said that we cannot tie ourselves to any one interest, and stated that he believes in "only moderation in pursuit of extreme libertarianism."

Hank Hohenstein nominated DAVID BERGLAND FOR VICE-PRESIDENT. (He said he was distressed at the divisions at yesterday's convention) He told of Bergland's work against victimless crime laws and for the None of the Above referendum in California.

Karl Bray seconded Bergland's nomination: "... We have four beautiful people running for vice-president.... I love being here... this is one of the most meaningful things that has ever happened in my life... the LP is really maturing... This is going to become the greatest vehicle for the achievement of human liberty ever on earth..."

Bray mentioned that when his wife and he were jailed for carrying concealed weapons that it was Bergland who bailed them out by putting up his own house as collateral for the bond.

Jim Trotter said that Bergland "can generate the enthusiasm necessary... he can increase our base of support... and will insure that this campaign becomes the next step on the road to freedom in our own lifetime ... Bergland has the ability to clarify issues... Roger and Dave is the strongest ticket we can advance... I urge those who supported me to support Dave."

Dave Bergland spoke to the delegates saying that when Hank Hohenstein had called him in California the night before, he "figured the IRS had busted the convention." He declared that "there is a hell of an educational job to be done" to tell the people about "that monster that is the government." He stated that he will make these issues important: taxation is theft ("those guys have the guns"), the negative effects of the federal regulatory agencies, and he would urge that we get out of the United Nations. He said that as a trial lawyer he has a "great opportunity for flexibility" and that this will be the one activity to which he will devote his time.

Robert Nozick nominated JOHN VERNON FOR VICE-PRESIDENT declaring that "...Any one of our issues could ignite and get the press wherever we go. We have no guarantee taking such a range of controversial positions that the press will not force us onto one issue..." He questioned that if we view things on tactical grounds "in order not to frighten them off" by being not "quite so up front on certain matters" then "why not take the argument that we will pull back on some other important plank... This is a serious issue about the future of the party ...properly to be decided by all of us... I take the position that we should not take the tactical view..." I worry that "Roger would consistently apply this tactical argument about a diverse range of psychological views..."

"I apologize to him (Vernon) for raising the issue this way -- the issue of gay rights -- once again gays are being exploited and if so I apologize."

Bill Howell of Texas seconded John Vernon's nomination describing Vernon as "one of the most honest and decent people in the libertarian movement... He has run for political office... and ran an excellent, professional campaign... and was accepted by the public... His libertarianism is uncompromising..."

Richard Kenney of Massachusetts stated that Vernon would not make this a one issue campaign. Kenney said that he agreed completely with Nozick that if the "press want to make this a one issue campaign they will do it no matter what we do."

John Vernon addressed the delegates stating that he is a successful businessman and that he has impeccable qualifications as a libertarian. He said that he has had over 30 letters to the editor published ranging from taxes to garbage collection to private sexual acts to pornography.

He reminded the delegates that "In our constitution, we gave the presidential candidate the authority to veto any vice-presidential candidate. You have done this... if you do not like the decision then you should do something to change it... I do not have to agree with Roger's reasons for being opposed to my nomination... I respect his position... whatever happens I intend to support his nomination... I hope someday that I may be placed in nomination for president of the United States... I would like to see us be able to run any qualified candidate... and that the personal style of his life will not be challenged... I think perhaps that day is coming... I do not know that it is present now. ... I think that you should consider seriously all of these points, and I thank you."

Roger MacBride then requested to be recognized so that he could address the convention. He declared "...I am proud of this minute... I think Bob Nozick has done an enormous service to the convention for the fair way that he presented this... and I am glad... The decision on who should be the vice-presidential candidate (should be yours)... and I will not veto any candidate that you choose."

After short addresses by Tonie Nathan and Manny Klausner, the voting began on the third ballot for the vice-presidential nomination: ... "California, the territory with almost as many candidates as delegates..." "Delaware, the first state and we are very embarrassed about it..." "Hawaii, the 50th state and no less embarrassed..." "New York, home of victimless crimes, gaily announces..." "Announcement: And would the young lady who left her dress at the SIL cocktail party last night please pick it up at the SIL literature table."

The final results of the ballot for the vice-presidential nomination: Bergland 137, Vernon 36, Nathan 21, Klausner 19, Block 19, Abstentions 1. Bergland was nominated.

Bergland's Acceptance Speech: "... Events I have seen here this morning were extremely gratifying... the activities... the attitudes of all of the delegates... (are) exemplary of what this organization is about and the type of people that comprise it... One of the things that is important to stress to the public is the type of people already in the LP... what they stand for... how they handle themselves..."

"A great majority of people are part... libertarian already ... all we have to do is wipe away the thin veneer of establishment, liberal, conservative clap trap that blocks most of the thinking of most people... (our ideas) will strike a cord within all people... the strong vibrant desire of all people to take control of their own lives..."

Bergland declared "Let's look at situations (whether taxes, regulations, victimless crimes...) and ask not what kind of law can be passed but what kind of laws are already in existence that are causing those people the problems that they have... and remove those bureaucratic interventions..."

He continued "It is a tremendous opportunity for me first and also for you and for the LP... and for the American people in 1976 to make a choice which will reverberate throughout the remainder of the 20th century and I hope for centuries beyond."

At the beginning of the afternoon session, a motion proposed by Phil Manger of Maryland was passed to allow cumulative voting for the seven At-Large Execom positions. Manger explained that cumulative voting would allow delegates the option to cast votes in any way they wish -- even seven votes for one candidate. No cumulative voting allows slightly over 50% of the delegates to select all of the At-Large members.

The following national officers were elected without opposition: ED CRANE, chairman, ANDREA MILLEN, vice-chair, GREG CLARK, secretary, FRAN YOUNGSTEIN, treasurer.

Sixteen people were then nominated for the seven At-Large positions. Phil Manger, who nominated himself, declared "I still have not recovered from the events of yesterday afternoon... my enthusiasm for the national candidates has diminished... my enthusiasm is undiminished for what the Party stands for... If things go as expected, I will support the national ticket."

While the delegates' votes were being tallied, Mark Tier of the Australian Workers Party addressed the convention. He congratulated the delegates for the "honesty and lack of backroom... deals" and declared that he would lend unlimited support of a spiritual nature to the MacBride/Bergland ticket. He stated that competition is good for the soul and that he believes that Australia will beat us in becoming the first libertarian country.

Tonie Nathan announced that she will run for Congress in Oregon!

The results of the election for At-Large Execom Members

(the first seven persons were elected): PHIL MANGER 135, JIM BLANCHARD 119, RICH KENNEY 119, DAVE NOLAN 118, BILL SUSEL 116, ED CLARK 115, JOHN HATHAWAY 114 (an unknown to the LP who was nominated by Murray Rothbard, Joe Cobb, and Walter Block), Bobbi Jahn 95, Bob Meier 91, John Vernon 89, Frank Horn 83, J.D. Webster 79, Porter Davis 73, Bob Steiner 61, Lee Schubert 34, Martin Nixon 31.

The convention delegates then split up into Region Caucuses to elect the Region Representatives to the Execom. (A full list of these representatives will be published in a later issue.)

The gala BANQUET Sunday night was sold out and featured a speech by "Mr. Libertarian" Murray Rothbard and entertainment by Jean Preece.

After the banquet, the vice-presidential candidate Dave Bergland spoke to the assembled libertarians: "... We are all pretty much amateurs in the political game... and that I believe is going to be a benefit to us..." He said he thinks people, especially young people, "are listening to us and what we are saying and they say 'Right on!...' They want what we want... to do an honest day's work... and take it all home and spend it on whatever the hell they want... They want to send their kids to school and not have their minds blunted... They hate to see their children in jailhouses... But they do not know that the free market has a solution... (all it requires) are a few sentences clearly stated to make them see... that libertarianism is for them... We'll tell them what we have to offer... when we just state it to them, they'll say 'We're with you, show us the rest of the way' and we'll see a new tomorrow."

Roger MacBride, the presidential candidate, stated that he has been through a "frantic experience... at least I have and a great many of you have..." The most memorable times were when Karl Bray, Jim Trotter, Robert Nozick, and John Vernon spoke. "These were the four high points of the convention... We have gone through trauma... and we have lived through it and come out on the other side... We have our growing pains... But we will differ in tactics and approach and never once doubt each other's sincerity and ability... Together we can go forward... toward a most magnificent campaign which will be the foundation for decades to come... Let us work together."

During the wee hours of the morning, the candidates met with representatives of the state organizations to begin campaign coordination.

Early Labor Day most of the remaining delegates left NYC and the Statler Hilton, but the first meeting of the new Execom went on throughout the day. Then the convention week was over! A busy, exhilarating, productive, sometimes disturbing week with little sleep or regular meals and much libertarian fellowship.

Labor Day, September 1, 1975  
by Kathy McAdam, Region 7 Representative

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The LP Treasurer's Report showed Net Worth as of 7/31/75 at \$39,877.49.

The **LIBERTY '76 FUND** has received approximately \$3800 which will be transferred to The Committee to Elect Roger MacBride.

Bob Meier, National Director, emphasized that none of the state organizations should set up any special funds for the presidential election until the national organization has a chance to thoroughly review the Federal Election laws.

A new fund called **30 IN '76 FUND** has been established which is separate from the candidates' campaign fund. It will be used exclusively to help get the LP on the ballot in at least 30 states in 1976.

**REPRINTS OF NATIONAL LITERATURE:** Lee Schubert mentioned that the unofficial policy on reprinting National LP publications has been that any state party may reprint any national publication in any way at any time and that this has resulted, in some cases, in reproductions of an unprofessional nature. It was also noted that, in at least one case, reproductions were made without any credit being given to the original source.

When questioned by Kathy McAdam about recent LP NEWS articles taken from state publications without credit being given to the source, Chairperson Ed Crane stated that the LP NEWS will not reprint anything without first checking with the state and that credit will be given.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion passed that all reprints of national literature should give credit to National and to the author.

It was recommended that National should encourage state organizations to reproduce and use National publications and that National should suggest that nothing be reproduced in a shoddy manner.

**FORMAT OF NATIONAL LITERATURE:** Dave Nolan, a professional in the advertising field, stated that our National literature has been individually good but that it does not have a standardized format and that uniformity is very important because of the reinforcement process in advertising. All messages should be similar in style and format and have an air of professionalism.

After a lengthy discussion, Ed Crane said that he would be personally responsible for working with Dave Nolan to establish uniform graphics (color, layout, typeface, etc.) for the national literature.

**PARTY SYMBOL:** Carolyn Keelen, Associate Editor and Art Director of the FREE LIBERTARIAN of NY, was recognized to present a symbol prepared by Liberty Communications of Detroit as a modification of the libersign. She declared that "it is strong and it is beautiful and I wish that I had done it." Many comments about the proposed symbol included: "it is too bold and too heavy for us, there is something too put-offish about it"; "it expresses a desire to be free from boxes of all kinds"; "it is bold and that is a good aspect of the symbol because it has impact."

A motion passed that alternatives should be offered and market research performed and results presented to the Execom by mail in three months or a minimum of two weeks before the next Execom meeting. (We can then study the results before we vote on it at the next meeting.)

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:** Bill Howell questioned the statistics in the press release that went out from the convention that the LP has 10,000 members. Chairperson Ed Crane stated that "the release went out from N.Y.C." We were not informed of any press releases. It was incorrect, and we do not know how it happened.

**REPLACEMENT OF ROYCE REPORT:** The Royce Report on Congress, "a measure of our national legislators' commitment to the principles of individual freedom, as revealed by their voting records" is no longer being published.

Walter K. Olson was recognized to discuss his College Libertarian Rating Service report. It was decided that National should study his report and others being offered in order to choose a replacement for the Royce Report.

It was the sense of the body that the issues chosen should not necessarily be the key issues of the day but should be issues which will show the uniqueness of the libertarian position.

**POSITION PAPERS:** Roy Childs has written a position paper which will be released shortly. State organizations can reproduce any national position papers with credit given to National. (These papers have been donated by the authors.)

**BY-LAWS CHANGE:** After a long discussion, the following addition was made to the By-Laws as By-Law #5:

"In the event of the death, resignation or disqualification of the Party's nominee for President, the Vice-Presidential nominee shall become the Presidential candidate. A two-thirds majority of the entire Executive Committee may, at a meeting, fill a Vice-Presidential vacancy, and, if necessary, a simultaneous Presidential vacancy."

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:** The following nine people were elected to the National Judiciary Committee: Joe Cobb, Murray Rothbard, Robert Nozick, John Hospers, Bill Evers, Bill Westmiller, Jim Trotter, Ralph Raico, and John Vernon.

In case any of the above people do not accept the position, the first alternate is Bobbi Jahn and the second alternate is Sylvia Sanders.

**MAILING LIST RENTAL:** A motion was passed to allow National to trade (rent) the LP mailing list (never to sell it) with notice first appearing in the LP NEWS to allow people to request that their names not be included. Written notice will also be sent to all state chairpersons.

It was noted that state LP organizations cannot get access to the entire national membership list but only to those names from their own states. National Director, Bob Meier stated that he is "categorically against giving the membership list to the state parties" because too many fund raising mailings directed to these same people would destroy their receptiveness.

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR TO SIGN CHECKS:** It was decided that the National Director will have the ability to sign checks up to a limit of \$500 per checks.

**QUARTERLY TREASURER'S REPORT:** A motion made by Dave Long was passed that quarterly Treasurer's Reports (including information on all the funds) be mailed to the Execom.

**ADS IN LP NEWS:** A motion passed that the LP NEWS be opened to ads from LP candidates local and national and to LP subsidiary organizations.

**NEXT EXECOM MEETING:** January 17-18, 1976 in New Orleans.

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS MOVES TO WASHINGTON D.C.

The National Execom has voted (by mail ballot) in favor of moving the National Headquarters from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. The move should be completed by October 10. Until then the National Headquarters will be closed.

In a related vote, the Execom voted to transfer Bob Meier's salary as National Director to Ed Crane, the National Chairman, and to allow Crane to accept additional funds in the form of contributions submitted specifically for that purpose.

Crane will now work fulltime for the LP. Bob Meier will become an employee of the Committee to Elect MacBride.

Because Bob Meier is a Region 1 Execom member, he will have to give up that post when he leaves California and he will be replaced on the Execom by Bill Evers (editor, LP NEWS) who was the highest non-elected vote getter at the Region 1 caucus at the National Convention.

Materials for the MacBride/Bergland campaign will not be available until late October. However, funds are available now for petition drives to gain ballot status. Contact Howie Rich at 111 Constitution Dr., Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962 for details and assistance.

(Ed. The above article was taken from a 9/26 letter from the National Chairman.)

## EDITORIAL

We are at a crucial time in the life of the fledgling Libertarian Party and many of us are deeply concerned about the future of the organization. Is the LP becoming increasingly concerned about vote totals, publicity for our candidates, media reaction, and membership counts and less dedicated to the pursuit of liberty? Are we in danger of betraying our long range goals by side-stepping issues and soft-pedaling our ideas because we are afraid that the media will misrepresent or attack us or that the general public will not understand? Are we becoming so overwhelmed by immediate day-to-day tactical problems that we are forgetting that the real issue is freedom or slavery?

It is extremely important at this time that we carefully, scrupulously examine our own internal problems — that we encourage discussion and debate so that we can learn from our mistakes. We must nurture honesty and openness within our organization. How will it benefit the LP to conduct highly visible and well-organized campaigns if we lose the idealistic, dedicated, hard-core libertarians! We will be left with an organization that has lost its heart and soul. Our allegiance is not to any organization or to any candidate but to the ideal of liberty.

We have a glorious vision to impart to people — the vision of a free society! If we hedge or act hesitantly and apologetically about our ideas, people will only wonder what is wrong with our goals. We must proclaim our ideals openly, confidently, and proudly — realizing that some people may not completely understand all at once and that others may deliberately misrepresent us. No one will ever be able to grasp just how wonderful freedom can be if we are hesitant about proclaiming its virtues.

Let us ever be true to the Spirit of '76 which inspired the first libertarian revolution and eagerly dedicate our efforts to insure the success of the second libertarian revolution.