

# NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN

NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN PARTY, P.O. BOX 56, TENNENT, N.J. 07763

\* \* \* NOVEMBER 1987 \* \* \*

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TENTATIVE--October 16-- Ron Paul visit to New Jersey. For the first time NJLP members and friends may be able to meet our candidate for President in person. Call Rich Duprey at 201/743-9425 for confirmation and meeting information.

October 21-- NJLP Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour, Route 18 South, (Brunswick Square Mall), East Brunswick. All NJLP members welcome.

November 1-- New York City LP dinner with Jim Lewis, 6 PM, Ukranian East Village Restaurant, 140 Second Ave., NYC, \$20/person. Contact NYC LP at 212/966-LP72 for reservations and details.

November 3-- NJLP election night General Meeting, 8:00 PM at NJLP candidate Mike Harris' home at #2 Appert Terrace in Mahwah. Phone Mike at 201/891-3395 for directions.

#### NJLP STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

by Len Flynn

The NJLP State Committee met on September 16, 1987 at Patti's Restaurant in New Brunswick. Present were Duprey, Zeldin, Flynn, Maiullo, Friedlander, Karlan (for Tauro), Kerr, Stewart. Absent were Harris, Peters, Polombo, Meinshausen, Agnew, Pierone, and Schafer. Chairman Duprey called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

The minutes of the August 19, 1987 meeting were read, amended, and approved. The correction was that

Mike Pierone is an NJLP member. Based on this information a motion was unanimously approved to rescind the 8/19/87 NJLP decision to remove Mike as Sussex County representative on the State Committee.

The committee next discussed expenditures for NJLP literature. Spending \$108 plus change was authorized retroactively and unanimously for printing 1,000 copies each of "Government--The Big Lie" and "Man-in-the-Mirror" pieces plus an additional \$10.00 to Dan Maiullo to cover half the typesetting cost for the "lie." (The "Mirror" original was prepared by Laura Stewart without charge to the NJLP--thanks Laura!)

The committee also approved Rich Duprey's request for the party to pay \$48 for a one year subscription to Campaigns & Elections magazine. Rich promised to share information with the party membership. Rich approved \$15 to purchase a Ron Paul 8 minute commercial videotape.

A motion to adjourn passed at 8:20 PM. After adjournment the group heard a complaint from an individual who was denied a seat with the NJLP delegation at the Seattle LP National Convention. Len Flynn explained the NJLP's procedures to him. Rich Duprey and Dan Karlan apologized for any misunderstanding.

### MONMOUTH COUNTY LP REPORT

by Laura Stewart

Monmouth County NJLP members met August 21st at Laura Stewart's home for what Laura described as "a Wine and Cheese Party--because a Bloody Mary and Stuffed Clam Party doesn't have the same ring to it!" The goal of the evening was simply for everyone to get acquainted with each

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#### l Platform Committee

David Bergland, acting chair of the Platform Committee ("PlatCom"), was unanimously elected full chair. I found him a very competent and firm chair. We accomplished a lot of good work in the approximately 14 hours the committee was is session, over two days, and he deserves a lot of the credit for keeping the parliamentary questions to a minimum and seeing to the desired completion the business of the committee. All of us on the committee, but especially the rookies (such as myself), were somewhat disappointed by the final outcome of the platform debate on the convention floor.

Generally, the PlatCom work is either major or minor; major work includes new planks as well as significant changes and additions to existing planks; minor work includes deletions and modifications to maintain the platform up-to-date, as well as 'house-cleaning' and wording improvements.

Initially, we set as the agenda that we would proceed in the order in which the platform itself is organized. This was totally arbitrary, but was subject to change; in fact, a better order was in effect achieved as we found the problems with the initial agenda.

As a result of the order, some of the early work turned out to be minor, but we soon learned that there was much more important work, and avoided 'house-cleaning', though realizing that the amount of time available, both in committee and on the floor, meant that those minor changes would not get done.

However, major work on an AIDS plank, on Children's Rights, on Military Policy, Nuclear Arms, and International Relations was voted out of committee, and a significant rewrite of the Women's Rights plank was defeated. In addition, it was decided that any attempt to write a plank that stated not only that the party membership was divided on an issue, but that a particular candidate should be consulted on an issue for his or her views, was unacceptable as giving the candidate a blank check. Much of the 2+ hours we spent on the Women's Rights plank included discussion of just such a non-commitment, and I was among the majority that rejected this attempt. I was worried that this out was being included specifically to placate Ron Paul, and did not like to set the precedent of having the platform state that the Libertarian Party position on an issue was up to a particular candidate.

Ultimately, a plank by Paul Jacob (which did not include the 'blank check' but did waffle on the unity of the Party membership) was defeated by 1 vote, with me voting NO as the next-to-the last vote (in the only roll call vote we took).

A strong AIDS plank was voted out, as many mail but significant change in the Children's Rights plank: the change being that parents who wish to terminate support for a child have not the right to seek' alternate guardians, but the 'obligation to find' them. I voted with the strong majority on this.

A communications plank rejected government attempts to regulate DAT (Digital Audio Tape) machines; this was amended on the floor to include radar detectors, and the floor approved this final version against some strong protests that it made copyrights almost worthless.

A statement protesting the 'reflagging' of foreign ships was sent to the floor and adopted, along with an addition to the Finance and Capital Investment plank which deplored restrictions on 'insider trading' and a call to Congress not to legislate the 'fairness doctrine'.

Finally, a strong plank on Military Policy, to replace the old one, was passed. The new one uses much stronger language to oppose MAD and to advocate removal of US troops and weapons from foreign bases. The plank was submitted by Bergland, and reworked somewhat in committee. A similar plank had been submitted by Bob Poole, but was not discussed, primarily because Poole arrived very late in the proceedings.

A lot of other good work was done by the PlatCom; I felt satisfied that I had contributed positively and substantively to the effort. I look forward to two years from now, when -- if NJLP maintains its rolls in the top 10 in national members -- I can continue the important work of this committee. I noted during and after the proceedings that much effort is wasted if the same discussions occur every two years, and one way to minimize this is to maintain some continuity from one PlatCom session to the next. Having worked in one, and having witnessed -- and been a party to -- the deliberations, I believe my participation 2 years from now will be even more significant.

#### .2 Convention Business

The theme of the convention was "The Culture of Freedom". Don Ernsberger, in the keynote address, expanded on the theme eloquently, noting the growing trends worldwide towards freedom. He also noted that each of the moves towards freedom strengthens the others, by showing that "Freedom works, and freedom is right!" His address repeated that statement a few times, with audience participation, and it helped to establish a very positive sentiment on the floor, that the work of the convention was very important.

The first order of business Thursday was the Rules and By-Laws Committee Report, suggesting numerous major and minor changes. Major changes passed by the floor included the effective creation of a new 'class' of member: one who has not paid his dues, and thus cannot be counted for apportionment of delegates, etc., but whose interest is recognized and exploited.

A change in the manner of calculation of the number of NatCom representatives per population was passed. The effect of the actual change (1 per 5% of total membership, rather than 1 per 250)

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#### CONVENTION

was to make 2 regions which had warranted NatCom representation now under the minimum (which had risen from 250 to about 275), and on the last day there were some changes in region makeup partially to restore such representation. For example, New England fell under the minimum, but by joining with NY, the latter's excess brought NE back over the limit.

The major changes that failed were an attempt to remove all at-large representatives from NatCom, and, failing that, to require that each at-large representative chair at least 1 NatCom subcommittee. There was clearly a strong sentiment that the problems with NatCom partially stem from its size, and the national leadership suffers in consequence. I disagree, but bowed to the sentiment in our region. More on that later.

Friday: a document called the Party Program, mandated by the Phoenix convention, was the object of much debate and parliamentary wrangling on the floor. In its place on the agenda, only the preamble was approved by the necessary 2/3, and further work was postponed until 9AM the next day. However, that took 1-1/2 hours from the Platform debate, and thus much of the work of the PlatCom was lost. We can only hope that with the next convention not including a day for selection of national candidates, more of the work on both the Program and the Platform can be accomplished.

Saturday: we went immediately to the Program, and the only attempt made was a 2/3-requiring vote to accept the program in toto as reported out of committee. This failed 186-99 (190 were needed).

We then went on to nominations for Presidential candidate: there were 4 -- Paul, Means, Lewis, and Glenn. By this time, there had been 2 candidate forums (Thursday and Friday), and a lot of logic, sentiment, and mild attempts at persuasion. I went to the convention undecided, feeling not sure I could trust Means, and uncomfortable with Paul; Lewis was a latecomer to the campaign, and I did not feel he was a viable candidate. (Harry Glenn came across more as comic relief than a serious contender: he shouted all his answers to the questions, never gave a simple straight answer, and frequently appeared not even to understand the question.)

As the first 2 days were on, it became clear that Paul was firmly in the Libertarian camp, and had completely forsaken his main-stream political alliances. It also became clear, however, that Means' commitment was quite genuine and, from talks with Means boosters, both deep and broad. It further became clear that Jim Lewis was a capable speaker and could deliver our message quite well. As much as the forums were supposed to help us make our decision, I found just the opposite effect: all rose substantially in my esteem, so I still could not decide. However, I felt very secure that I could support and of them, and therefore cast a partly-sentimental vote for Jim Lewis. I respect those who found in the real differences between Paul and Means sufficient basis for preferring one over the other. The final vote was Paul 193 (192 needed to win), Means 120, Lewis 49, NOTA 14, and Glenn 3. (3 votes for Marrou were also cast.)

I was glad there was only 1 ballot, and I was especially pleased that the vote was as close as it was. The results made for rapid wound-healing.

One of my initial reasons for dissatisfaction with Means was my impression, from public statements, that he was a 'fair-weather' Libertarian: if he was not selected, he would pack up his toys and go home to play with his 'people.' Not that American Indians don't deserve assistance from someone with our perspective, it was just that I felt that the principles of the Party warranted more deeply-rooted support and commitment than Means had displayed.

At the first forum, Means had repeated the earlier statements, and rejected the VP spot. By the 2nd forum, he did not reject it. While Marrou was the only candidate for VP, and there was no reason for me to prefer Means to him, I read into Means' failure to reject the 2nd spot an indication that he could be persuaded to continue to work within the LP if he was not selected. Clearly, good things were happening.

Following the usual 1/2-hour celebration of Ron Paul's nomination, and the retreat of the Means crew to 'lick their wounds', we went immediately to selection of the VP nominee. The first person to be nominated was Russell Means.

Means immediately asked to speak to us, and he rejected the 2nd spot, saying Marrou was the best man for the job. He went on to thank all his supporters, and said he would continue to work for liberty. He ended by saying that growing up on the reservation, all the white people he met were racists, and he had been close to becoming a racist himself. He said that libertarians rescued him from racism. And he left the podium and the conference hall --slowly, to a thunderous, 15-minute STANDING ovation!

"That," I thought at the time, "was a class act." It still thrills me to think about it. The LP would be poorer without this man in our camp. If only there were 3 places on the national ticket!

Andre Marrou was chosen by a voice vote as the Vice Presidential nominee just before 1PM. We tried, having a few hours before the banquet, to get back to the platform, but the required 2/3 vote to discuss anything relating to the platform could not be achieved. So we went instead to the forum for the 2 candidates for National Chair: Jim Turney, the incumbent, and Hugh Butler.

At the banquet, the usual spiel for funds for the new campaign was made, and a target of \$60,000 was set (we actually missed it by only about \$200, and that was raised the next day). Among the contributions was \$1000 from Russell Means. Definitely a class act.

There was also talk of helping Norma Jean Almodovar and Jim Lewis in their troubles with the 'law'. The Karl Bray award was made. And then there was the entertainment, emceed by Bob Steiner, founder of the NJLP!

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#### CONVENTION

Sunday: NJ and PA officially formed what we are calling (for lack of a better name) the Penn-Jersey region (now excluding Delaware; why will be explained on another occasion). We are entitled to 1 NatCom representative, and I was in fact seriously interested in the position. More on that later.

Andre Marrou announced that a deal had been made, which gave to Russell Means the position of honorary chair of Andre's campaign, and would travel with Andre, especially to Alaska (with a 15% native American population). This idea had, in fact, been proposed quietly by George O'Brien, one of the people I stayed with.

Jim Turney was returned as National Chair, and the vote wasn't really as close as some of us had expected. Dave Walter was chosen as Vice Chair on the 2nd ballot over Roger Gray, Dean Ahmad was returned as Secretary, and Clifford Thies was elected Treasurer over Joe Lusardi.

To fill the 7 At-Large NatCom seats, Tonie Nathan, Sharon Freeman Mitchell, Lew Rockwell, Jerry Walsh, Steve Fielder, Matt Monroe, and Don Ernsberger were elected. While those votes were being tallied, four resolutions were passed: in support of Norma Jean Almodovar and Jim Lewis, in opposition to Robert Bork (there was some debate about that one), and in support of HRI582 (which would limit states' abilities to restrict ballot access).

At the Penn-Jersey regional caucus, NOTA was chosen to fill the available NatCom seat. I had withdrawn my candidacy on advice from certain of the PA delegates, including Dave Walter and Don Ernsberger ("the SIL twins"). More on my reason for wanting to be on the NatCom (a very specific project I am developing) in a later issue of this newsletter.

The Judicial Committee votes were taken, and during the tallying, a quorum call failed; the chair ruled that the convention would be adjourned by the orders of the day as soon as the vote totals were announced. Craig Franklin, Honey Lanham, Dave Nolan, Tonie Black, and Jack Dean were elected, and at 5:00 PM the 1987 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention was adjourned.

#### .3 NatCom

I attended about I hour of the first NatCom meeting I have attended, and saw enough to satisfy myself that that my decision not to seek the Penn-Jersey seat had been the correct one. I can develop and implement my project without being on the NatCom; and, in fact, the extensive work of the NatCom, and the need of most representatives to sit through it all, would make developing my idea harder, not easier, if I was a member. So much of what NatCom discusses at any given time is of interest to only a few members that it is somewhat surprising it gets as much done as it does. I don't think the answer is fewer members, but additional members would not help.

I decided as soon as it was announced to attend the Seattle convention. I have close friends in that area, and I thought it would be fun. The candidates were not of much interest to me yet, and I knew little of the various substantive issues that would be raised. I knew the NJLP policy would probably admit me as a delegate, but that didn't faze me.

My friend arranged for the two of us, plus 2 non-LP libertarians, to climb Mt. St. Helens. I expected the convention would be easy after that work, and I looked forward to the hike and climb rather than to the wheeling and dealing.

At the NJLP picnic July 25, I learned that NJ had a seat on the platform committee, and I was chosen as our delegate to that meeting. A few weeks later, I received a packet of papers from Len Flynn, informing me that I had been chosen as acting state delegation chair and authorizing me to implement the policy of the NJLP, etc. The decision served to focus my attention on my taking an active role in the business of the convention, and my interest grew.

Then came the trip. The climb up Mt. St. Helens was exhausting, but exhilarating, and worth the effort. It drained me physically, and put me into sensory 'overload.' It takes from 4 hours to 4 days for me to recover from sensory overload; this time it took about 12 hours. We reached the rim of the caldera at about noon, and were back in Seattle soon after midnight. I was ready for business the next day, at the PlatCom. The excitement of the job we were doing, the efficient handling of procedures, and just the thrill of working with fellow libertarians on matters of import to all libertarians, served to re-invigorate me. I was comfortable and enthusiastic about the report of our group, and looked forward to its acceptance by the convention.

Meanwhile, I had been developing in my mind an idea that I felt could have great utility for the Party, and looked forward to discussing it with other LPers and working for its implementation. My enthusiasm for the work of the convention was snowballing.

Don's keynote address, Paul's nomination, Means' rejection of the VP nomination — all combined with many other features to further enhance my sense that this was an important convention, and my role would be a useful one. I was staying with my friends, sharing crash space with 4 others at the convention, and the other guests added to the atmosphere. I felt that both deliberately and accidentally, consciously and uncousciously, I was going through a significant change in personal outlook. Just the opposite of burnout was happening. Having been through burnout, I know how dramatic and persistent is the inability to motivate oneself. At the airport on the way home, I mentioned my positive outlook to some other LPers I saw going home, and found out that I was not the only one going through 'burn-in'. In many ways, the outcome of the convention was a dramatic reversal of the results of the '83 convention in NYC.

Even as I write this, partly on the flight home and partly after being home for a day or two, I still feel that positive sense that developed during the proceedings. The Emerald City worked its magic on all of us.

#### CONVENTION QUOTES

#### by Launa Stewart

You already have two excellent day-by-day reports, so I don't imagine you want a third. Instead, here are some of the best (and worst) of the memorable quotes heard at the Seattle convention. Of course we were there to represent our state parties, to choose our candidates and NatCom, to improve the platform and to make the world safe from democracy, but the convention also turned out to be a great place for compulsive quote-collectors.

The convention started off with a bang with "Liberty works, and liberty is right!" (spontaneously shout in unison, with upraised fists; you get the idea). A catchy phrase, nicely balancing the pragmatic and the idealistic, but it had one little problem. Two days later, no one could remember exactly how it went. Was it "liberty" or "freedom"? Which came first, "works" or "is right"? Unfortunately, a catch phrase doesn't have much of a future when, before a bunch of you can shout it from the deck of your cruise ship to passing boats, you have to sit down and figure out how it goes.

#### CHILLING THOUGHTS

Some people were good for a newsletter's worth of quotes all by themself: "You know how dumb the average person is. Well, think about this: statistically, half the people in the world are dumber than that." [Robert Anton Wilson]

More chilling: "Children aren't really human beings. They're somewhere between human beings and cattle." [Walter Block]

And my 'favorite' in this category: "How can you say some number is too many? We can always not use the ones we don't need," [unidentified hawk on the floor during discussion of nuclear weapons]

One idea seemed delightfully original to most people, although it made the militantly child-free (such as myself) uncomfortable: "The way to have more libertarians in the world is for libertarians to have children. My wife and I are working on that right now." [Andre Marrou]

#### HARRY GLENN

Harry Glenn's antics were amusing, although it's too bad we couldn't keep the press away from him while he was ranting and raving. Harry Glenn was the candidate who couldn't pronounce "Libertarian", despised foreigners, campaigned by screaming and singing country & western songs, and whose finely tuned understanding of libertarian principles included "It's the government's job to get the mail delivered on time" and "I'd stop the damned doctors from charging too much. Mouldn't let them charge old folks more than their Medicare allows."

QUOTES

Glenn did have a rare moment of lucidity during the second candidates' debate, when we were all tired of hearing about how much money Ron Paul could raise, and how Russell Means was the only one who could get the message out to the disenfranchised. Glenn reminded us again that when he became president he wanted the other 4 candidates in his cabinet, and then pointed out how much he could accomplish "with Ron Paul raising money and Russell Means spreading the message!"

#### **HEALING**

Some people helped clear the air after all the mudslinging (or as one person wearing the popular UNITY button said, "It's not so much the mudslinging, it's the chunks of asphalt under the mud.").

The Libertarian Irrelevancy Caucus distributed flyers announcing "a 3 way panel on how to write sleazy little sheets that personally attack other Libertarians. Featured speakers will be:

Carol Moore Jim Peron Justin Raimondo

The panel will convene at 8AM Saturday, in the alley behind the hotel near the dumpsters."

Jim Turney and Hugh Butler pledged a clean campaign for NatCom chair. At one point, however, Turney showed more good sportsmanship than he had intended, by asking from the chair for a copy of the green "National Membership by States and Regions" flyers that everyone on the floor was using to calculate regional allocation, etc. Someone obliged by giving him one, but there were several cries of "look at the other side." The other side contained a "Hugh Butler for Chair" message.

Jim Lewis showed he was a real gentleman and got a big hand by standing up for his opponent during the debates. He was the first one hit with the question (aimed at Ron Paul) "Have you ever written for The New American or another John Birch Society publication?"

And finally, Russell Means, who was called a racist in one of the above-mentioned sleazy little sheets, admitted in a very moving speech to the entire convention "I was judging all white people by the ones I met on the reservation. I was on the way to becoming a racist. The people in the Libertarian party saved me from becoming a racist."

other and with Laura, Monmouth County's new representative NJLP State Committee. Everyone encouraged to bring non-libertarian friends who might be interested.

The group did not make any organizational plans, but conversation lively and the LP'ers chance to use their communication/ persuasion skills on an interested non-libertarian. He went home piled with libertarian books and literature thanks to Rich Duprey, read Libertarianism in One Lesson from cover to cover, and is still expressing interest our ideas.

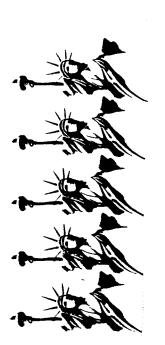
The Hawk Crest wine was well received, and the entire spread was praised--particularly by Len Flynn. A good time was had by all!

Monmouth County members should be on the lookout for a questionnaire sometime within the next few months. is willing to use their Anyone who future social or organihome for a occasion (or perhaps zational outreach activities) please Laura at 264-4492.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

JERSEY

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Material must be received by the 27th of the month to be in the following issue.

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First Class

TO:

