

New Jersey Libertarian

November/December 2006

Northern Jersey Organizes

Libertarians of Northern New Jersey (LNNJ) held their initial meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006. Joseph Dunsay hosted the meeting at his River Edge home in Bergen County, NJ.

The 14 members who came to the meeting represented the northern NJ municipalities of Bloomingdale, Boonton, Haledon, Montclair, Mountainside, River Edge, Totowa, Waldwick, Washington Township, and Wayne. These areas are in Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic, and Union counties.



The 14 members of Northern NJ discuss policy over refreshments

Lou Jasikoff, who is committed to recruiting a full slate of candidates for the 2007 state assembly and senate races, moderated the meeting.

Jay Boucher, of Ocean County, provided the Monmouth/Ocean County Libertarian Party bylaws to serve as an example as they craft their own.

Joseph Dunsay was elected Chair, and Dan Karlan was elected Vice Chair of the group.

LNNJ's scheduled its next general/business meeting for Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 2 pm at Joe Dunsay's home. Members wishing to arrive at 1 pm can preview the movie, "Serenity", a space western with a libertarian perspective.

Open Government Advocate

NJLP Chair, Ken Chazotte, authorized John Paff to speak for, and act in behalf of, the NJLP on any and all open government issues.

At the October meeting, Len Flynn formalized Ken's action by asking the board to approve of the appointment. The motion passed unanimously.

Paff has been acting in this role for many years for the Libertarian Party of Central Jersey. The board's action increases the scope for John's activities making him, and the NJLP, a stronger force for open government initiatives throughout the state.

"I have created a title for myself", says Paff, "the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocate. I like having a moniker for the media to easily describe me."

John recently filed his first request using the new title. The request, which was sent to Keyport Borough in Monmouth County, sets forth the NJLP's commitment to open government and quotes from the party's platform.

The request, which is at www.lpcnj.org/OGTF/StandardOPRA.pdf will serve as the model for future requests.

From the Chair Roll up your sleeves (I plan to)

The NJLP has a few Centers of Excellence. John Paff and his work on Open Government is one. Liz Macron and her efforts to manage the NJLP's ongoing litigation efforts is another. Shad Wooly and Ray Babecki, who run the Third Point of View, are yet another. The Third Point of View is a news commentary show expressing Libertarian points of view and has aired more than three hundred episodes.

I refer to centers of excellence as a person or persons who focus on one thing, dedicate themselves to it, and do it extremely well.

The NJLP is in need of many centers of excellence; Newsletter Editor, Press Coordinator and membership recruitment to name a few.

I have enjoyed serving as party Chair and am proud of the work we undertook during this past year. However, I have taken the party as far as I can and look forward to having some 'new blood' lead our party.

I encourage all to consider running for this position as it really is the best way to see how challenging and rewarding it is to grow a political party.

As my tenure as party Chair comes to an end, I will continue to serve the party as I work with Lou Jasikoff, Jay Boucher and others to create another area of expertise within the NJLP.

In my first "From the Chair" letter written more than a year ago, I mentioned that we were too few in number to be an effective force in New Jersey Politics.

More than a year later, I now know how difficult it is to get someone to join the party and to get them involved. I am also convinced that it takes someone, or some people, who are energetic, who can follow up with phone calls, who can organize events and are willing to take the time to meet with people one-on-one to bring them into the party.

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as we roll up our sleeves to create a lasting membership and recruitment infrastructure worthy of the term 'Center of Excellence."

Ken Chazotte Chair - NJLP

Annual Convention

The annual conven-ion i- -cheduled for Sa-urday, March 25th. Al-hough we are in final nego-ia-ion-, i- appear- -he loca-ion will be -he Quali-y Inn, 8029 Black Hor-e Pike, A-lan-ic Ci-y We--, NJ 08232.

A -pecial -hank- go -o Jay Edgar and Lou Ja-ikoff for -heir effor- in planning -hi- year'- conven-ion.

Jay Edgar i- becoming an experienced conven-ion planner, a- -hi- i- hi- -hird conven-ion he i- organizing. Lou Ja-ikoff i- con-ribu-ing migh-ily -o -hi- effor- a- well. Thi- i- Lou'- fir- - a-emp- a- planning an NJLP conven-ion.

Bo-h Lou and Jay are -o be e-pecially commended for -aking on -hi- projec--o -oon af-er -he comple-ion of -heir U.S. Hou-e of Repre-en-a-ive-campaign- -ha- ended on November 7th.

THANKS GUYS!

Officer Elections

Every year we elect a new slate of officers at our annual convention. This year's elections will occur on March 25th and I encourage all members to consider running.

As a reminder, the positions available are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition to our officers, each county elects one person to represent them at the State Board and Steering Committee meetings (8 per year) and there are three member-at-large positions available. Members-at-large act as advisors to the leadership and attend 1 meeting per month.

If you have any questions about any of these positions, please feel free to email me, Ken Chazotte at Chair@NJLP.org,

Eminent Domain – The Saga Continues

Originally Published in the Home News Tribune Online 12/8/06 Submitted by Ray Babecki

TRENTON - The NJ Supreme Courupheld -he righ- of a municipali-y -o condemn proper-y -o pre-erve open -pace in a deci-ion ye--erday -haul-ima-ely could have na-ional implica-ion-.

The nearly unanimou- 6-1 cour- ruling allow- Moun- Laurel -o condemn land on which MiPro Home- had received approval -o build 23 home- in 2002.

The ju--ice- -aid --a-e law allow- a municipali-y to use the power of eminent domain to condemn land to save open space and prevent residential development - even if a developmen- for -ha- land had received i- local approval-.

The cour- - aid MiPro mu- - be paid fair-marke- value -ha- -ake- in-o con-idera-ion i- - ubdivi-ion approval-.

The ruling wa- hailed by local governmen- and environmen-al group-bu- a--ailed by builder-, who are con-idering an appeal -o -he U.S. Supreme Cour-. The ca-e would have na-ional implica-ion- only if -he U.S. Supreme Cour- decide- -o hear i-.

The Supreme Cour- of -he Uni-ed S-a-e- already ha- upheld -he righ- of governmen- -o u-e -he power of eminen- domain -o redevelop land in New London, Conn.

Eminent Domain is Unpopular. I- i-al-o un--oppable?

Adapted from an Associated Press article originally published Monday, November 13, 2006. The original article can be viewed in its entirety here:
http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200661113024

NJ vo-er- overwhelmingly di-approve of -he governmen-'- abili-y -o -ake priva-ely owned land from i- owner-for redevelopmen-. The Fairleigh Dickin-on Univer-i-y Public Mind poll al-o found in-ere-- in -he -opic remain-high, nearly a year af-er -he Kelo

deci-ion. (A US Supreme Courdeci-ion -ha- allowed -he ci-y of New London, Connec-icu- -o forcibly - eize home- from priva-e homeowner- u-ing eminen-domain.)

Several bill- -o re--ric- -he u-e of eminen- domain are pending in -he --a-e Legi-la-ure. Unfor-una-ely, -he-e bill- have been pending for mon-h- and i- now -eem- unlikely -ha- any meaningful reform- will ac-ually become law.

The -urvey a-ked re-ponden— -o con-ider 4 -cenario- under which local and --a-e governmen— migh- -eize proper-y; none were favored.

The lea-- objec-ionable plan, found accep-able by nearly half -ho-e polled, would have "dilapida-ed proper-ie-" replaced by be-er hou-ing and -hop-. Only 2 in 7 vo-er- -aid i- wa-accep-able -o raze hou-e- and -hop-for a new -chool, while 1 in 6 -aid i-wa- OK for ac-ive farmland -o be -aken -o build a new -chool or ball field.

9 in 10 vo-er- - aid i- wa- noaccep-able -o -ake middle-cla-hou-ing and replace i- wi-h "up-cale condo- and -hop-," - aid -he - urvey, which wa- - pon- ored by -he NJ Farm Bureau.

Over half -ho- e - urveyed - aid -hey had read or heard qui-e a lo- abou- eminendomain.

Editor's Note: It seems that there is an opportunity here for a team (center of excellence) to focus on this issue and find a way to get people involved. Unfortunately, in our attempt to pass meaningful reform in Belmar earlier this year, I became intimately aware of how few people want to actually

"do" something to stop eminent domain abuse. (Unless, of course, their house is the one being stolen.)

Making National News

This is adapted from a letter sent by Stephen P. Gordon to all state Chairs. Stephen is Communications Director of the Libertarian Party.

A lo- of you are doing wonderful -hingin your --a-e- and municipali-ie- and we'd like o-her Liber-arian- -o know abou--hem.

Your good work can help provide - ome grea- example- for o-her LP member- and affilia-e organiza-ion- -o follow. We'd like -o - hine -ha- ligh- -o Liber-arian- acro-- -he coun-ry by fea-uring more of your --a-e and local new- a- LP New-.

Unfor-una-ely, we don'- have wri-er-living all over he coun-ry. For-una-ely, you may - ubmi- your ar-icle- or -ip-direc-ly -o -he LP new-. Any appropria-ely leng-hen --ory i-accep-able. Here are -ome general guideline-:

- 1) Keep -he ma-erfal appropria-e. Many people u-e LP New- a- ou-reach ma-erial, -o -ubmi-ed ma-erial mu-ca-- -he Liber-arian Par-y in a po-i-ive ligh-.
- 2) Receiving ar-icle- in elec-ronic -ex- forma- make- i- more likely -ha-your ubmi--ion will make in-o an i-- ue of -he LP New-.
- 3) We won'- be u- ing LP New- -o call o-her Liber-arian- name- For

con-rover-ial poli-ical i--ue- wi-hin -he liber-arian movemen-, we'll generally reque-- ar-icle- or informa-ion in order -o main-ain proper decorum and balance.

The bo-om line i- we'd like -o - ee more of your accompli-hemen- a- -he --a-e and local par-ie-..

Excellence Gets Noticed

CNET, a Technology review web -i-e, did a review of 1,000 poli-ical campaign web-i-e- in -he week- leading up -o -he November 7th elec-ion-. They recently con-ac-ed Jay Edgar (Vice Chair – NJLP, Hou-e Candida-e Di--ric- 04) -o le- him know -ha- hi- web-i-e wa- one of only 35 -ha- had flawle-- -echnical compo-i-ion.

In fac-, -he Liber-arian Par-y had -he mo-- -echnically flawle-- -igh-. According -o CNET new-.com, "...a -urvey of poli-ical -i-e- ... -how--ha-Libertarian candidates are ahead in the race to ensure their pages comply with a widely accepted litmus test for good Web design, which can aid mobile device users and people with visual disabilities.

You can read the article in its entirety at http://tinyurl.com/yd2y96.

Letter To The Editor

I just heard about the in-proce-elec-ion law law-ui-. I wan- -o congra-ula-e you and -he NJLP officeron --icking -hi- ou-. Thi- -hould be very in-ere--ing... The --a-e ha- done almo-- no-hing - ince -he la-- law- ui-, and -hey will cer-ainly look bad. I wonder whaexcu- e- -hey'll come up wi-h -hi- -ime.

Plea-e keep me informed if po--ible. If I'm able -o - i- in and li--en -o a hearing, I'd love i-.

Thank- & Good luck :-)

-Alber- Laro-onda

State Board Meeting 10/15/2006



NJLP State Board members rally 'round the picnic table and clown-around for he camera prior -o heir 10/15/2006 mee-ing (lr): Frank Warren, Jay Edgar (behind Frank), Emer- on Elle-, Len Flynn, Bill Hun-icker, Ray Cragle, and Mark Pre--on.



NJLP S-a-e Board member- reac--o-he folly of NJ governmen- during -heir 10/15/2006 mee-ing (I-r): Emer- on Elle--, Len Flynn, Bill Hun-icker, Frank Warren (back -o camera); Ken Chazo-e, Ray Cragle (facing camera); Jay Edgar, Mark Pre--on (on ground).

The NJLP State Board met at Smithville Park in Easthampton, near Mt. Holly. The Board rotates its meetings to different places around the state. Rank-and-file NJLP members do this as a courtesy to Board members, and to encourage attendance. Despite the date, the weather was sunny and in the 60's and most comfortable. Thanks to Mark Preston for suggesting this very nice park area in the midst of nature.

Links

Free S-a-e Projec- in Time Magazine Excerpted from a Time.com

The fir-- member of -he Free S-a-e Projec- ha- been elec-ed -o -he New Hamp-hire Hou-e al-hough five o-her candida-e- a--ocia-ed wi-h -he group did no-fare a- well.

The group cho-e New Hamp-hire -o -e--i- goal of crea-ing a - howroom for limi-ed governmen-, le-- regula-ion, low -axe- and a re-pec- for privacy by infil-ra-ing governmen- wi-h liber-arian idea-.

You can read -he full ar-icle here: h-p://www.-ime.com/=irre/magazine/ar-icle/0,9171,1555119,00-h-ml

Open Governmen#Filing: Garwood

The Liber-arian Par-y of Cen-ral New Jer-ey'- Open Governmen- Ta-k Force will file a complain - ornorrow wi-h -he Union Coun-y Pro-ecu-or again-- -he Garwood Board of Ed regarding -he Board'- failure -o comply wi-h -he Open Public Mee-ing- Ac- (Sun-hine Law).

The full -ex- of -he complain- i- po--ed a--he following link.
h-p://lp-mc.org/OGTF/GarwoodBOEW ebready.pdf

John Paff

Somer-e-, NJ

Ge- he la-e- on he Howell Town-hip filing

The "Open Governmen- Advoca-e'-"
mo-- recen- effor- i- again-- Howell
Town-hip. I-'- ah-p://www.lpcnj.org/OGTF/HowellWebr
eady.pdf

John Paff Somer- e-, NJ

Who's In Charge?

Helpful Tip

If you would like a list of all officers and employees of your municipality, along with their titles, date of hire and other information, send the following Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request to your municipal clerk along with the first page of the report at http://www.lpcnj.org/OGTF/WMRepor t.pdf

Ask for: "The 'Active Employee Listing' for [name of municipality] for the period of January 1, 1900 through to the date of this request. In order to assist you in fulfilling my request, I have enclosed a sample page of the document I seek. I make this request under the Open Public Records Act and the common law, and wish to have a PDF file of the record emailed to me at [email address]. Please let me know the cost of providing this document, if any before sending it."

You will need to complete your municipality's Records Request Form which may be available on the municipal website (see http://www.state.nj.us/nj/govinfo/count y/localgov.html) If you cannot easily obtain a request form, simply put your request in a letter to the Clerk. The Clerk should either accept your letter as a formal request, or send you a blank request form.

John Paff paff@pobox.com

Watchdog is demanded for meetings

Liber-arian wan— pro-ecu-or -o enforce
-he --a-e'- Sun-hine Law
Tue-day, December 05, 2006
BY DIANE C. WALSH
S-ar-Ledger S-aff
Middle- ex Coun-y Edi-ion

A member of the Libertarian Party of Central Jersey has asked the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office to make random checks of local town council meetings and other boards to make sure the public's right to information is not being violated.

John Paff, of Somerset County, said he made the request after he monitored the Monroe school board meetings and questioned why the wages of a substitute nurse were discussed in closed session and the name of a suspended employee was omitted from the meeting minutes.

The board's actions are possible violations of the state's Open Public Meeting Act, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, said Paff, the head of the Libertarian Party's special task force on open government.

The Sunshine Law establishes how public meetings must be conducted and limits what a public body can discuss behind closed doors. The usual exemptions to public meetings are personnel matters, labor negotiations and lawsuits.

Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan rejected Paff's call for random checks, however, stressing with the limited resources of his department, he must focus on its primary responsibilities, such as criminal investigations and prosecutions, homeland security and school

"That's not to say we won't investigate if a fact pattern presents itself," Kaplan said. As the chief law enforcement agency in the county, the prosecutor's office would always investigate possible abuses to the Sunshine Law, Kaplan said.

"But we'll deal with (it) as we do everything else, on a case-by-case basis," Kaplan said.

He said when the law was enacted, the Legislature realized the additional burden it was putting on prosecutors' offices and made a provision allowing citizens to enforce the law by seeking injunctions where violations are suspected.

Paff said it is unfair to expect the public to act, especially since there is no way for the public to recoup its costs.

"Unfortunately, the vast majority of citizens do not have and cannot realistically be expected to devote the time or resources necessary to bring suit on their own," he said. "The Open Public Meetings Act is apt to be ignored once it becomes known that it will not be enforced."

Paff wrote to Freeholder Christopher Rafano, who chairs the freeholders' public safety committee, to speak with Kaplan on the issue. Rafano could not be reached for comment. But Kaplan said he discussed Paff's concerns with the

Kaplan maintained it would be unreasonable to expect his office to monitor the hundreds of public boards that meet in the 21 towns in the county.

William Lamb, the first assistant prosecutor in Middlesex, said he reviewed Paff's concerns over the Monroe school board meeting and found no violations. Yet, Lamb said he sent Paff's letter, in which he outlined his concerns, to Monroe officials so they are "more mindful" of the Sunshine Law restrictions as they formulate their meeting agendas.

Diane C. Walsh covers Middlesex County. She may be reached at dwalsh@starledger.com or at (732) 404-8087.

Paff on the hunt in Middlesex

On November 24, 2006, the I sent the following letter to Middlesex County Freeholder Christopher Rafano after learning that the Middlesex County Prosecutor, apparently as a matter of policy, does not enforce the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The full letter, with all attachments, is at the following link: http://www.lpcnj.org/OGTF/Monro eBOEPWebready.pdf

I urge all who agree to contact Freeholder Rafano at 732-745-3506 (office) or 732-254-7322 (residence). (Note: Freeholder Rafano lists his residence phone number on his official correspondence, so I take it that he is accustomed to receiving constituent calls there.)

--text of letter

John Paff Somerset, New Jersey -RE: Enforcement of Open Public Meetings Act

Dear Freeholder Rafano: As the Chairman of the Law and Public Safety Committee, and liaison to the county prosecutor's office, we request that you please speak with Prosecutor Kaplan and urge him to devote some resources—even very limited resources—toward enforcing the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq. (also known as the Sunshine Act).

Attached is a) our November 17, 2006 letter to First Assistant Prosecutor William F. Lamb; b) the minutes of the Monroe Board of Education's October 18, 2006 nonpublic (i.e. closed or executive session) minutes, and c) Mr. Lamb's November 21, 2006 reply. We appreciate Mr. Lamb's prompt response and his suggestion that we are probably correct that the Monroe Board violated the Act by discussing the substitute nurse pay rate issue in closed session. We are, however, troubled by his statement that his office, apparently as a matter of policy, has elected to direct all of its resources toward the "prosecution of violent offenders and the discharge of other pressing obligations," thus leaving no time or resources left for the Act's enforcement.

As you may already be aware, the Act can be enforced in only two ways. First, N.J.S.A. 10:4-16 permits private citizens to enforce the Act through civil actions for injunctive and other forms of civil relief. Second, N.J.S.A. 10:4-17 empowers the county prosecutors and the Attorney General's office to impose monetary penalties of \$100 to \$500 against the Act's knowing violators.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of citizens do not have and cannot realistically be expected to devote the time or resources necessary to bring suit on their own. This is because the Act contains no provision for a citizen, even if he or she successfully proves a serious Sunshine Act violation in civil court, to recover his or her attorney fees and other litigation expenses from the offending official. Clearly, it is the rare citizen who is going to expend substantial sums of his or her own money, with no chance of recovery, in order to vindicate the public's right to know.

The lack of private enforcement makes it even more important that county prosecutors and Attorney General enforce the Act. Like any other law, the Open Public Meetings Act is apt to be ignored once it becomes known that it will not be enforced.

Further, we doubt that it would take much time or resources to effectively enforce the Act. We believe that if the prosecutor's office were to conduct random compliance checks of the county's municipal governing bodies and school boards and send letters of admonition to the Act's violators, that all public bodies would readily bring themselves into compliance. This result is especially likely if the prosecutor's office were to issue a press release announcing its random compliance checks and its intention to levy fines against future violators.

While we understand that you are not in a position to dictate policy to the county prosecutor, we would greatly appreciate it if you, as the citizens' elected liaison to the prosecutor's office, would urge that office to adopt a random compliance check or other program that would result in better compliance with the Sunshine Act. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours

John Paff, Chairman Open Goverment Task Force Libertarian Party of Central Jersey

State seeks overhaul of health care Reforms would mandate medical insurance for all

(Excerpt. Originally appearing in the Star-Ledger on Sunday, December 10, 2006 BY SUSAN K. LIVIO AND JOHN P. MARTIN

Lawmakers are drafting a plan to bring universal health insurance to New Jersey, a step that would extend coverage to more than 1 million residents and place the state in the forefront of a controversial national movement.

The proposal, which could be introduced early next year, would force every state resident to obtain medical insurance -- much the same way drivers here must get car insurance before they travel the roads -- and require taxpayers to file proof of insurance with their state income tax returns.

Those who don't have coverage would join a state-subsidized plan. Uninsured patients who show up at an emergency room would be automatically enrolled. Employers who don't offer insurance would be expected to establish pre-tax accounts and deduct premiums from workers' paycheoks.

Implementing such a system wouldn't be easy or cheap. Lawmakers and policymakers

involved in the discussions say the plan could cost state taxpayers at least \$1.7 billion in the first year alone, a tally that could be offset by participants' premiums. Two or three managed-care providers would be hired to administer the plan.

But proponents say the benefits cross demographic lines and represent an investment in the state's health and future.

"This is about curing a system that is broken and always has been," said Senate Health Committee Chairman Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex), who is spearheading the effort. "It is maddening to know we have a better way to do something, and yet we are spending billions of dollars for something that doesn't do anybody good."

The concept has the general support of Gov. Jon Corzine, who said Friday, "Right after property taxes, this is the next issue up."

Supporters say it is necessary to meet the demand for health care. Experts estimate that more than 45 million Americans lack medical insurance, and the burden of caring for them increasingly falls to the government, hospitals and the rest of society.

for the full story, see http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/b ase/news10/1165729462320830.xml&coll=1

Milton Friedman

Submitted by Libertarian blogger -Mystery Cookie Thursday, December 14, 2006

The other day my friend told me that Milton Friedman had died and that it was one of the saddest days of his life. He doesn't say things like this very often so I thought he was joking.

He looked at me a little surprised and said, "You know who Milton Friedman is right? He then told met that Milton Friedman stood for almost everything we've been discussing this last year.

I decided to do a little research since my friend seemed to greatly admire him. It didn't take much "googling" to turn up some gems. I stumbled across some early television interviews of Mr. Friedman and couldn't believe my eyes and ears.

Milton Friedman was warning the world about the dangers of mafioso style government since before the dawn of color television!

He was cautioning Americans about the scam of social security and accusing the U.S. government of engaging in blatant propaganda to support it. He was prophetic since today all we hear the Gambinos (aka Democrats) and Corleones (aka Republicans) yelling about is their brave reforms to "fix" social security.

A problem they created. How nice of them!

One interesting thing Milton Friedman did was break down the politician's mobster mentality into a basic fallacy. And that lie has been served up to us in press conferences, political commercials, and almost 24 hours a day on CNN.

"That it is feasible and possible to do good with other people's money."

Sound familiar? It's the mantra of modern government, which was obviously borrowed from the church. The critical difference being that the church asks for a charitable donation and the government takes it by force.

It may not seem that way because we've been raised in a society that accepts it, not unlike the kid on the playground who has resigned himself to being a punching bag for the class bully.

Did the U.S. government ask for your permission to make a direct withdrawal from your paycheck? After all, the "federal withholdings" were only a temporary measure to pay for WW II and we could trust them to return everything back to

normal once everything was paid off. In the same way the tax for the Spanish American War was temporary and would be eradicated the minute we'd covered those costs.

I guess in Congress temporary is synonymous with permanent.

Milton pointed out that there were two problems underlying this mafioso fallacy:

- 1) It requires the government to coercively take money from the citizens in order to spend it on their favorite programs, and
- 2) The notion that the political mobsters will spend the money more carefully than the hard working citizens who earned it.

That's the logic of our elected officials today.

They'll spend more on education. They'll spend more on Katrina. They'll spend more on keeping our food safe. Whatever the problem the solution is to throw as much money at it as often as possible. After all, it's not their money.

And the results are predictable.

Although we spend far more per capita than any developed country our test scores are well below others who spend a fraction. We're missing \$1 billion dollars on the Katrina debacle. And the FDA is doing everything in its power to prevent companies from testing 100% of the cows for mad cow (yes, your eyes don't deceive you, they are STOPPING a company from doing it).

We discussed this in a previous blog, but the obvious market reaction to people being scared of eating beef was to test 100% of the cows. The first company to do that would have a huge market advantage since everyone would buy from them thereby forcing everyone else to test 100% of their cows and then mad cow disease would be a thing of the past.

Ah, but big brother would have none of it! Why? Because they are the ones who write the laws and regulate. And a court battle has ensued for the simple right to not only protect the world from mad cow but also from the FDA who is supposed to be protecting the people.

Reminding us once again that the U.S. government exists for itself.
This doesn't mean we should run into the streets with torches and light up the nearest federal building. It just means that we all need to proactively tell the Gambinos and the Corleones that it's time for them to stop legislating and spending other people's money.

I hope you won't confuse this with being unpatriotic.

You can love the American people and the ideals upon which this great country was founded and be willing for die for them but still disagree with the political establishment. The politicians laugh all the way to the bank when we defend political parties instead of the people who elected them.

It's about embracing freedom, but hating greed and corruption.

Unfortunately, the comparison is not as simple as us against them. After all, a democratically elected government is a reflection of its people, even if we feel like they're vastly different from us. The sad truth is that most of my life has not been focused on the good of the people anymore than it's been the focus of the government.

And I suspect I'm not alone. ;-)

If a government of the people is greedy and self-serving then the root of its problems are the people. But that doesn't mean it must always be this way. Before we can change the world we must first change ourselves. If people like Milton Friedman can stand up for freedom and fight against tyranny then perhaps I can too?

Libertarians Online

On November 7th, Libertarian activists started the NJ Libertarians MySpace group. Since it's founding, the group has grown to include approximately 100 members. Visit http://groups.myspace.com/njlibertarians to join in on the discussion.

New Jersey Call toll free LIBERTARIAN 1800 201-NJLP New Jersey PARTY P.O. Box 56 TENNENT • NJ • 07763

Occupation & Employer

Dunumun				
Enclosed	li	s my		
additional contribution				
of \$	to	help the		
NJLP in its efforts to				
expand individual liberty.				

7	I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at
	which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not
	believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.
(Signature required for membership only) X

Send to a Friend			
I have a friend who			
might be interested in the			
NJLP. Please send a			
complimentary copy of the			
New Jersey Libertarian to			

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