

CALIFORNIA LP CONVENTION

On the weekend of February 14-17 in Santa Monica the **Libertarian Party of California** held its Third Annual Convention with about 150 people attending. In addition to the general sessions which dealt with the Platform and the Constitution and Bylaws, a number of panels and special events were held.

On Friday night veteran campaigners **Dave Bergland**, **Karl Bray**, **William C. White**, **John Hospers** and **Bill Susel** held a panel discussing their experiences in the 1974 elections and the prospects and opportunities for the LP in 1976. (And following the panel was an unscheduled Valentine's Day treat—the wedding of **Dave Bergland** and **Nichole Norman** with Universal Life minister **Hank Hohenstein** officiating.)

Saturday opened with a very well attended seminar on **Libertarian Feminism** featuring **REASON** editor **Lynn Kinsky**, **Susan Love Brown**, and **Ranette Daniels** presenting the case for feminism being very much a libertarian issue. Ms. Kinsky suggested the formation of a Women's Caucus within the LP to encourage communication between libertarian women and to deal with political issues specifically affecting women (anyone wishing further information should contact Ms. Kinsky c/o **REASON**).

Following the seminar was a luncheon featuring a talk by the author of *Land Use Without Zoning*, **Bernard Siegan**, and then after a short break **Dr. John Hospers** gave the opening speech for the first general convention session.



Bernard Siegan addresses the Convention.

Sunday brought the highlight of the convention—the evening banquet, which featured a talk by **Roger Lea MacBride** on “The Future of Liberty” and a speech by **Dr. Murray Rothbard** on “The Need for Political Action” (to be published in the next issue of **REASON**). **Roger MacBride** galvanized the audience by making formal what has been talked about for a while—he announced his candidacy for the national LP Presidential nomination!



Roger MacBride announces his candidacy. l to r: Ned Hutchinson, Manuel Klausner, Murray Rothbard, Roger MacBride, Ed Crane

The convention wound up on Monday with the election of officers: **Bill Westmiller** is the new state chairman, **Susan Love Brown** is the southern vice chairman, **Ray Cunningham** is the northern vice chairman, **Ed Wolford** is the new state secretary, and **Dan Wiener** is the new treasurer.

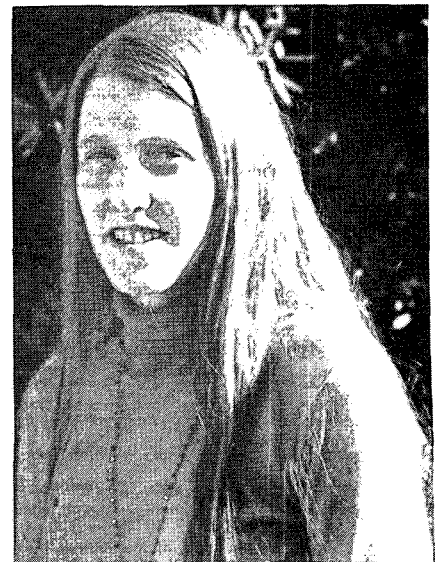
Anyone wishing further information on the Libertarian Party of California should write to the LPC at P.O. Box 71383, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

SANTA BARBARA RESULTS

The results of the libertarian campaign for School Board in Santa Barbara, California [see “Frontlines,” March 1975] were a little disappointing, but the usual excuse of lack of voter information cannot be given. **Lynn Kinsky**, editor of **REASON**, and **Ruth Hammond Sutton**, **REASON** office manager, placed 12th and 14th respectively in a field of 18. Kinsky received 3,523 votes for 9.3 percent of the vote (this was for three seats, so percentages indicate number of votes divided by total voters voting), and Sutton received 3,070 votes for 8.1 percent. The candidates having attended about 50 public forums, distributed 10,000 leaflets, and spent \$1000 on newspaper advertising, everyone in Santa Barbara was talking about “the libertarians.” When introduced to the candidates, people often

said, “Oh, you’re the ones that want to abolish public education.” Nonetheless, Kinsky and Sutton received a lot of support from community and political leaders from both the right and left. While getting endorsements from many prominent conservatives, and getting many of their votes from conservative areas, one of their highest vote-areas was Isla Vista, a small community near the University of California Santa Barbara campus which gained notoriety in 1970 for the burning of their local Bank of America, and where the political spectrum ranges from liberal to Marxist. Kinsky placed 5th with 12.5 percent and Sutton placed 8th with 8 percent, while most of the active candidates only got a few percentage points. Also, **Robert Raffealli**, Isla Vista resident and U.C.S.B. Society for Individual Liberty co-founder, running for the Community College Board, received 6,639 votes for 20.9 percent overall in a two way race, and received 46 percent in Isla Vista. His ballot occupation was “Libertarian Writer.”

The result of this campaign was that people were exposed to libertarian ideas, applied to local issues, and, while many balked, many also responded. The Santa Barbara libertarians, rapidly growing in numbers, intend to keep active in community affairs. Libertarianism has become a respected force in Santa Barbara politics. For further information please contact the Santa Barbara LP at 294 Via El Encantador, Santa Barbara, CA 93111; phone 805-964-4310, or 964-4131.



School Board candidate Ruth Sutton.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

Dave Merrick, Libertarian Party member, ran for the Santa Cruz, California City Council and received 1819 votes in a 12-way race for 4 seats, placing 9th with about 18 percent of the vote. Merrick ran for County Supervisor a year ago and his total and percentage then was about one-third that of this campaign, indicating growing respectability for libertarianism and a lot of work by Santa Cruz libertarians.

June Genis, running for the Palo Alto, California School Board received about 500 votes for three percent, placing fourth in a four-way race. Her campaign was marred by the inactivity of local libertarians until the last week of the campaign, when a few thousand leaflets were distributed.

Saul Rackauskas, LP regional vice-chairman running for the Community College Board in Ventura County, California, received 4,582 votes for 19.1 percent in a three-way race for one seat.

SURVIVAL CONFERENCE

"Will You Survive Anarchy?" will be the theme of Countercon II, the second conference on "counter-economics," to be held over Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-26) at Camp Mowhawk in Cheshire,

Massachusetts. (Attendance is expected to be several times the 25 scholars and businesspeople who attended Countercon I in October.) Counter-economics examines how goods and services can be freely traded in spite of governmental prohibitions, protectionism, and economic distortions, and advocates of the counter-economy believe that this network of "underground" enterprises could in fact become the *only* organized economy, should the aboveground economy collapse due to government interventions or whatever. Believing that anarchy—in a very real sense—will result if the vast array of government supports suddenly collapses counter-economists are trying to organize as many alternative enterprises as possible, everything from postal systems to arbitration services.

Among the speakers at Countercon II will be **Robert LeFevre**, **Charles Curley**, **Dennis Turner**, **Sam Konkin**, **Abby Goldsmith**, and **Ken Kalcheim**. For further information on the conference please contact **J. Neil Schulman**, 180 West End Avenue, Apt. 7C, New York, NY 10023 or phone 212-595-9143.

Please send material for inclusion in FRONT-LINES to Lynn Kinsky at REASON, P.O. Box 6151, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. Meeting and activity announcements will be carried as space

permits; however we must receive announcements two months before the actual event if we are to publish it as a "coming attraction" rather than as history. Tell us about your group, your activities, your strategies for social change in as much detail as possible. Items accompanied by photos are especially welcome. [E]

LUCIFER'S LEXICON

By L. A. Rollins

assassinate, v.t. To recall a public official with one ballot.

censor, n. One who enjoys a legal monopoly on the perusal of materials considered politically, sexually or otherwise arousing.

draft, n. An ill wind that blows nobody good; many a young man has caught his death from it.

graft, n. Grease for the moving parts of a political machine.

impeachment, n. In the U.S., a constitutional procedure whereby the pot may call the kettle black and he who is without sincerity may cast the first ballot.

liberty, n. A commodity considered by the Government to be a luxury item and, therefore, subject to heavy taxation.

revolution, n. A game of musical chairs the object of which is to end up occupying the seat of power.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Next month is REASON's Second Special Financial Issue, on the theme "Surviving Inflation and Depressions." When we started planning this issue last fall, we didn't fully appreciate how timely it would be. The issue is shaping up to be even bigger and better than last year's. The June issue will feature important and timely advice by Harry Browne, Dr. Harry D. Schultz, and William F. Rickenbacker—probably the world's top three free-market investment advisors. It includes the now-famous I.M.M. debate on gold between Milton Friedman and John Exter, and an important new article on strategy by Murray Rothbard. Also included are articles on tax avoidance, tax havens, urban survival, retreats, self-defense, emergency food supplies—in short, everything you may need to know to survive, both physically and economically, in the troubled times ahead. Subscribers will receive this issue as part of their subscriptions; to all others the price will be \$3.00.

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On college campuses it is generally acceptable—fashionable, even—for a professor to defend a socialist or Marxist point of view, while his free-market oriented colleagues stay intimidated and silent, convinced they are alone in their beliefs. Happily there are a growing number of exceptions to that generalization, such as 42-year old Dr. M. Bruce Johnson, Professor of Economics at UC Santa Barbara, who not only presents free-market concepts in the classroom but is also active as the faculty advisor for the UCSB chapter of the Society for Individual Liberty and participates in local community and Libertarian Party activities. Although raised with libertarian political and philosophical views Dr. Johnson did not become an activist until his research into the economics of land use regulation earned him an appointment to the California Coastal Commission in 1973. "My experiences on the Coastline Commission convinced me in a very personal and dramatic way how arbitrary the exercise of collective authority is and how potentially damaging to individual freedom these measures can be. I wrote an article, 'Piracy on the California Coast,' expressing some of the views I held because of my Commission experience and this was published in the July 1974 REASON. Until that time my libertarian activities had been quite personal and al-

most private but then the REASON article served to introduce me to a wide variety of individuals who hold similar beliefs and are concerned about similar problems."

Dr. Johnson's professional background includes a B.A. (1955) from Minnesota's Carleton College, and an M.A. (1960) and Ph.D. (1962) from Northwestern University. He taught at Northwestern and at the University of Washington before coming to UCSB in 1968, and he served as the chairman of UCSB's Department of Economics from 1970-74. Dr. Johnson is a member of several professional associations and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Western Economic Journal*. His research specialties are land use regulation and consumer economics.

Dr. Johnson is married and has three young children. As a hobby he designs and builds custom wood furniture for his family and friends, but "I do not offer it for sale because I refuse to permit the government to expropriate part of my output." His favorite book is Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*, which he first read in the late 1950's, and he also enjoys reading H. L. Mencken and economist Henry Manne.

Regarding social change he says, "I be-



M. BRUCE JOHNSON

lieve that argument and persuasion are the only legitimate means open to us to advance a libertarian society. I am thoroughly convinced that our political 'leaders' in government can never be persuaded to relinquish their power and control over our lives. Change must come from the grass-roots level and with that in mind I intend to use speeches, articles and books to publicize the detrimental effects of government action and control, and to spread the libertarian view." □

letters

ABACO AND ESQUIRE
REASON [October 1974] and its readers have taken a keen interest in the affairs of Abaco, the small island nation which seeks its independence from the central government of the Bahamas.

As many readers will know, the New Country Project was associated with the Abaco Independence Movement (AIM) for many months. A lot of progress has been made. Support for AIM is widespread among both black and white citizens, and in all settlements. Business people on the island, too, are giving support. And in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, there is a fund of goodwill towards the movement. Presently, a petition seeking home rule from the Nassau Government is being circulated and has already received the signatures of over one half of Abaco's adult population. More will sign, and plans are advanced for the presentation of the petition on completion.

Of course, the movement has its enemies,

mainly in the Pindling government circles. Freedom is not always popular. And there are others eager to deride or detract from the movement and its ideals.

Some of you will have read an article in the February *Esquire*, entitled "The Amazing New Country Caper." It would be understandable if this article caused some concern among those who support the New Country Project in general and the Abaco movement in particular, though the phone calls I have received from libertarians indicate that most recognize the story for what it is—namely, distortions and outright falsehoods.

I have been asked to answer some of the points in a letter to REASON. There are so many errors, both minor and major, that to answer each one would take too much space. But perhaps I may state very briefly my involvement in the affairs of Abaco.

There is no such thing as a WerBell-Oliver

organization. The New Country Project, with which I am associated, but with which Mr. Mitch WerBell has *no* connection, is interested in founding a new country, based on libertarian ideals. Such becomes all the more necessary and urgent as the West rushes headlong into monetary crisis and collapse.

Abaconian leaders approached the New Country Project requesting assistance in their struggle against the Pindling regime in Nassau. This was, and remains, a political rather than a military struggle, and we have not engaged in any activities which libertarians would regard as dubious. (Mr. WerBell, I should point out, was involved in Abaco long before I was.) All along the Project has worked hand in hand with the leaders of AIM. The vital decisions have always been theirs. Our role, among other things, has been to offer help to the Abaconians in things with which they have no experience.

We have, for example, helped them pre-