

frontlines

Libertarian Women

The Association of Libertarian Feminists was well represented at the International Women's Year Convention in Houston, TX, Nov. 16-20. Tonie Nathan was appointed as a national delegate-at-large at the last minute, largely through the lobbying efforts of Libertarian Party National Director, Chris Hocker in Washington. Nicole Bergland and Linda Rader of California and Sue Bjornseth of Houston organized the libertarian effort at the convention.

The libertarians shared a display booth in the exhibition hall with *Majority Report*, a feminist magazine, and were able to hand out literature to those who stopped to talk. There were 2,000 delegates at the convention—and about 1,800 news reporters and other media representatives. A news conference and a talk show appearance were arranged by the Houston libertarians, who had just completed Allen Vogel's campaign for mayor and had made a number of media contacts.

According to Tonie Nathan, the organizers of the convention maintained a tight control on the agenda and the microphones. No new business was allowed to be introduced, and the only defeat suffered by the organizers was the proposal for a Cabinet-level Department of Women in the federal government. This proposal was viewed as a job-creation deal for Bella Abzug and voted down.

The Oregon Delegation proposed the decriminalization of prostitution, which is one of about 50 proposals which will be considered by the IWY Commission for presentation to Congress early next year as part of the "women's agenda." Tonie Nathan's proposal for the repeal of postal regulations forbidding the mailing of contraceptive information and repeal of the National Association of Broadcasters' code restricting the advertisement of contraceptive materials was also included in this list.

Among other contacts at the convention, Oklahoma State Senator Mary Helm discovered the libertarian feminists and enthusiastically joined them. Helen Blackburn, co-chair of the Iowa delegation, had just joined the Libertarian Party in Iowa, although she disagreed with the L.P.'s position on the United Nations. Others interested in ALF should write to Suite 1428, 41 Union Square

West, New York, NY 10003 for more information.

Anti-Inflation Institute

The Institute on Money and Inflation, Suite B-1, 314 East Capitol Street, Washington, DC 20002, has recently been formed "to make sound money a respectable topic of discussion on Capitol Hill." As a tax-exempt policy study group, the I.M.I. plans to bridge the intellectual chasm between the significant body of economic literature on inflation, money, and unemployment and the hundreds of members of Congress who fail to understand any of it. In the October newsletter, I.M.I. quotes the *Wall Street Journal* in an interview with a Treasury official who commented that Carter doesn't understand why there is high inflation and high unemployment at the same time. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal answered a question from Senator Jack Schmitt on inflation by saying, "we really don't understand it. . . ." Indeed, the depth of economic illiteracy among the nation's lawmakers is astounding. But, of course, government makes a profit several different ways from expanding federal credit and promoting deficit finance. The ignorance may stem from a deeply ingrained habit for dissembling.

The newsletter of the I.M.I. is available on request, along with reprints from the *Congressional Record* on the recent action by the House and Senate legalizing the use of gold clause contracts by American citizens.

Fighting Newspeak

Back in 1973, at the Libertarian Party convention in Cleveland, Howard Katz remarked that one of the biggest problems with inflation was the tendency of people to think in terms of "rising prices" instead of "shrinking money." The frame of reference most people use to think about value is the unit, one dollar, and in that perspective inflation looks like the work of evil businessmen. If the process were viewed as depreciation of the dollar instead of rising prices, shifting the focus to the actions of government instead of the actions of producers and sellers, 90 percent of the

political battle would be won.

Katz's Committee to Establish the Gold Standard, 85 Fourth Ave., New York, NY 10003, and Jim Blanchard's National Committee for Monetary Reform, in New Orleans, are planning to sponsor a nationwide advertising campaign to highlight this difference in perceptions. Anyone interested in this campaign, which includes professionally prepared ad copy, cartoons, etc. should contact Jim Blanchard at 1524 Hillary Street, New Orleans, LA 70118. The Committees are presently raising money to insert the ads in major national media. Inflation continues to top the chart of issues which worry the general public the most, exceeding the unemployment issue by a substantial margin.

Howard Katz has long advocated a grass-roots, blue-collar approach to the gold standard struggle. Fifty years ago the labor movement well understood the way in which workers are screwed by government monetary policies. Ludwig von Mises once wrote that during the 19th century, millions of people knew nothing about the classical liberals except that they supported the gold standard—and that was enough to win elections. With the upsurge of inflation expected in 1978, and the specter of wage and price controls by 1980, now is the time to push the hard money issue as far as possible.

Former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, Herbert Stein, has written a book entitled *On the Brink*, published by Simon and Schuster, based on the scenario of hyper-inflation in 1983, with a return to gold money as the final solution. Now that Senator Jesse Helms' bill to legalize private contracts in gold, as well as foreign currencies, has passed it may be time to mount a major initiative against the popular conception of money as a necessary government monopoly.

Joe Cobb

This column is concerned with an analysis of activities on the "frontlines" of the battle of political principles, and with news about people who are active in the struggle. We appreciate news and ideas from readers. Please send materials to Joe Cobb, Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690 for consideration and use in FRONTLINES.

viewpoint

[Continued from p. 38.]

The anarchist perception of America's reality is not a political analysis, it is a psychological distortion. Dedicated to that nightmare distortion, and to its corollary dream of a Stateless and nationless world, the anarchists have instinctively sought alliance with other haters of the

State and nation. Accordingly, they have gravitated to the crudest destroyers in the land. They have slid into an alliance with the Left. And they manage, marvellously to ignore the fact that 1) what the American Left hates above all, and what it wishes above all to destroy is not the State, but *capitalism*, the very basis of liberty—and that 2) the major target of the Left today, is that cluster of civilized values that are integral to capitalism: reason, science, technology, industry, productivity, private property, profits, individualism, and meritocracy. None of this complex context seems relevant to the anarchists. Hatred is the real bond between them and the Left. Hatred is the ultimate determinant of their positions.

That is the real nature of the deal struck by the constitutional republicans and the anarchists. Reverence has been swapped for malice. The motor of the libertarian movement has been switched.

And here we are, today. And by "we" I mean only two kinds of people—the idealistic constitutional republicans and the libertarian movement, and that substantial number of young trendy anarchists who are playing utopian games. This column was not written to debate with the real anarchists (one cannot debate people's nightmares and dreams)—it was written for the leaderless, rudderless group which, through a series of traumas, misunderstandings, and errors has allowed the libertarian movement to be taken over lock stock and barrel by an anarchist faction. These people are due, very shortly, for a terrible shock. In the course of this coming year, they will discover that the libertarian movement will be represented in the intellectual marketplace by two slickly edited magazines, which will link that movement inexorably with the Left. *Libertarian Review*, edited by Roy Childs, was the first to appear. On the basis of its first few issues, one can say that it is dependent upon the counterculture for its social themes, and its economic and political content is a schizoid mix of libertarian and leftist analyses. The leftist articles—attacks on big business, US foreign policy and defense—are written from precisely the same perspective of hatred, and with precisely the same pattern of factual selectivity and evaluative stresses, that appear in the socialist *Progressive*. The purpose of these articles is not to disentangle business from the government in order to increase America's economic power and freedom, or to improve our foreign and defense policies in order to enhance America's strategic power and freedom—it is rather to expose industry as corrupt and to render America militarily impotent. Not coincidentally, *LR*'s chief columnist, Walter Grinder, is

actively pushing (as part of his sanctified list of revisionist historians) the works of a *Progressive* editor, Sidney Lens, who is a particularly virulent enemy of the US defense establishment, industry, and technology; who is a professional anti-communist; and who blames the United States for every evil in the world. Mixed in with such articles are excellent libertarian and anti-socialist analyses. It is a schizophrenic publication reflecting the anarchist incapacity to differentiate between the motives, goals, and value systems of different opponents of the State.

Worse, far worse, is yet to come from *Inquiry*, edited by Williamson Evers. By the time this column appears, the first few issues will be out. But on the basis of *Inquiry*'s flyers, one can know a great deal. Evers has scraped the bottom of the leftist barrel for some of his future contributors, and you ought to know more about them than he will ever tell you. One is Marcus Raskin, of the Institute for Policy Studies. Raskin is not just any old name in a mixed bag of contributors. He is the head of the foremost leftist "think tank" in the United States. On August 23, 1976, David Kelly published in *Barron's* (edited by libertarian Robert Bleiberg) an expose of Raskin and his IPS, revealing that he represents everything that is most inimical to an individualist, pro-capitalist libertarian who is concerned with the well-being of the United States. In one IPS essay, Raskin assaulted the very basis of individualism and meritocracy in a typically sleazy New Left fashion: "Cheating should be encouraged in the universities. We must clarify the obvious, that none of us learns alone, thinks and acts and creates without others participating. . . . Knowledge and learning is [sic] not a privatistic activity." In a further commitment to moral sleaze, Raskin shared the responsibility for *Counterspy*, which printed the names of US CIA agents, resulting in the murder of a CIA agent in Athens. Raskin's IPS is committed to the "new socialism," and its view of man-as-termite. Specifically, it advocates a stop-growth anti-technology, small-scale communist-tribalist society, heavily Maoist in orientation. He and the IPS are out to destroy US industrial and military strength, and the private property-capitalist system. David Kelly, author of the *Barron's* expose, told me he had been asked to write for *Inquiry*, but refused because he would not appear in a magazine that published Raskin.

Raskin is not the only IPS contributor. Another is Karl Hess, long associated with Raskin, who has joined the Termite Left, has repudiated private property and capitalism, and now calls himself a Maoist. Yet another contributor is David

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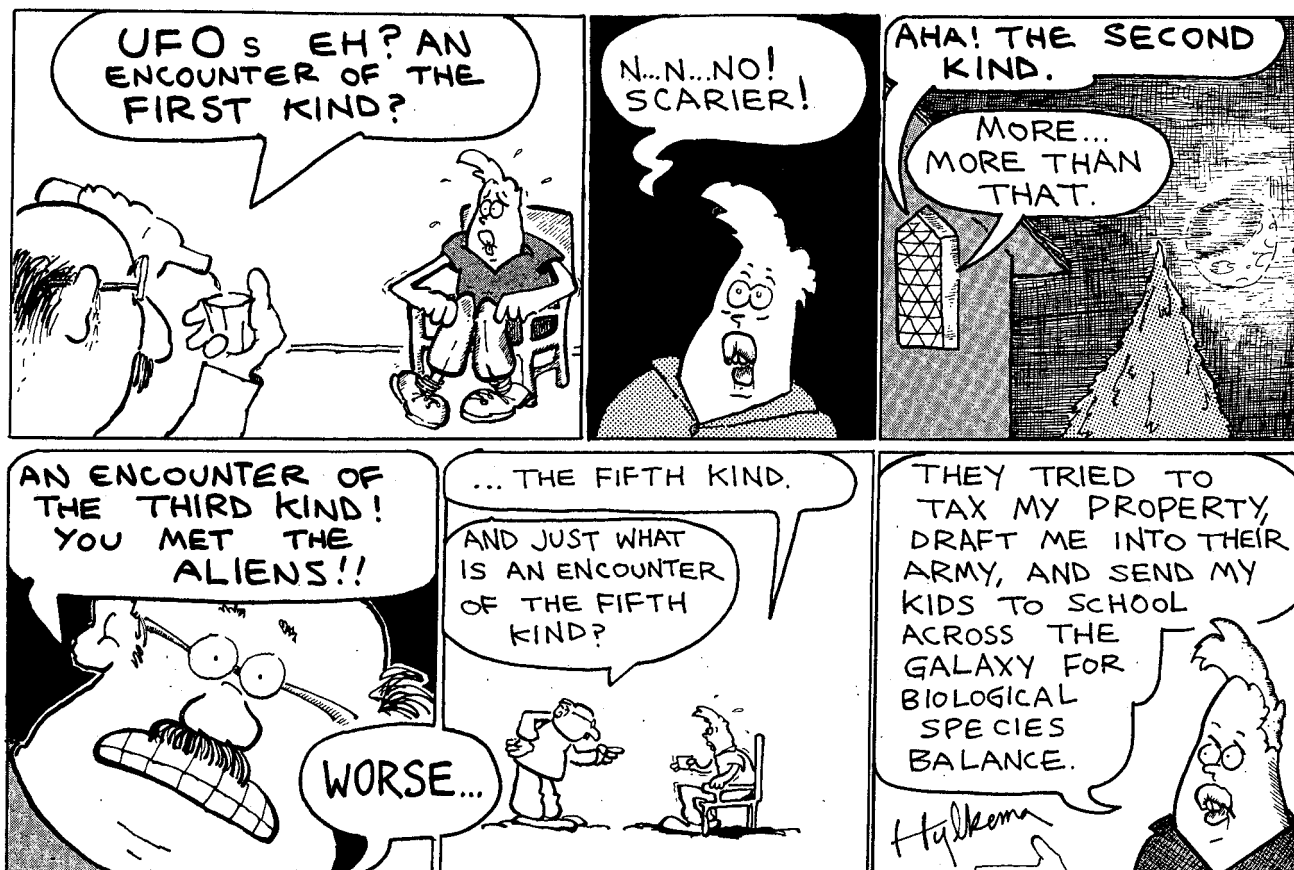
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M. Szonyi, of Breira, whose Middle Eastern policies play into the hands of those who would destroy Israel, and whose executive committee has ties with the IPS. Yet another contributor is Noam Chomsky, an anti-capitalist and Third Worlder with links to Breira. Yet another is socialist Congressman Ron Dellums. And finally, there is a gaggle of anti-American revisionist historians, CIA and Pentagon haters, anti-anti-communists, and a *Village Voice* writer who will stand guard over our allegedly continuously imperiled First Amendment—all these mixed in with a few moderate liberals and a couple of free market libertarians. The selection of contributors chosen by Evers as a come-on for subscribers to *Inquiry* says loud and clear to all political sophisticates: This is a publication with a dominantly New Left policy.

It is also being run like a con game. Anarchist Evers' prospectus for writers tells liberal and leftist contributors that the magazine's philosophy is "Jeffersonian liberal." And his correspondence to libertarians tells them that the magazine is being edited for "open-minded liberals and leftists"—a curious formulation for a magazine largely written by the Left for

the Left. Evers does plan to smuggle in a little free-market economics. Accordingly, he warns potential libertarian contributors to handle such "buzzwords as capitalism, the free market, and the price system" carefully, so as not to confuse or antagonize the liberals and leftists. "Buzzwords" indeed! I should add that Evers did not send me this warning; I received a copy of his letter from a distinguished laissez-faire economist, Roger LeRoy Miller, who had been asked to review a book on the "political economy" of a whorehouse. You can bet your boots that Evers will not ask Marcus Raskin of the IPS to discuss the "political economy" of latrine cleaning.

Inquiry, backed by a millionaire patron, is being passed off by the strategic geniuses of the anarchist world as a brilliant piece of tactics. It seems almost gratuitous to point out that its secretive intention of conning the Left into accepting capitalist ideas is a precise psychological replica of Murray Rothbard's aborted scheme of taking over the Cleaver party. A village idiot, of course, could figure out who has taken over whom. Evers has simply given the Left a new and costly forum for its views—a forum it could not obtain in the free

market.

These, then, are the new magazines which are going to represent libertarianism to the world of opinion journalism, to the media, and generally, to the intellectual community. Thanks to *Inquiry* in particular it will be widely known within six months that the libertarian movement has allied itself to the anti-American Left. The anti-Left constitutional republicans did not ask for this. They were not consulted about it. In their tragic passivity, it has simply happened to them. And it alters their relationship appreciably to this movement. So long as their compromise with the anarchists merely meant keeping silent about their loves and loyalties, the price was the private one of stagnation and paralysis. But now, every man jack of them is facing the grotesque public fact of a libertarian-leftist alliance.

What should they do about it? Repudiate that alliance sharply. Specifically they should do five things: 1) Refuse to buy these publications; 2) Refuse to contribute to them; 3) Denounce their policies and demand ceaselessly that they be changed; 4) Send a barrage of letters to the millionaire backer of these publications explaining that they

will destroy the libertarian movement; and 5) Reopen the anarchist vs. limited government debate, which never should have been closed.

The fifth is actually the most important since the magazines themselves will ultimately fall of their own weight. The market for a pathologically evasive anarchist-Maoist-anti-American product, above all one that falsely pretends to be "Jeffersonian liberal," is marvelously limited. It is the constitutional republicans—the limited governmentalists—who must immediately tend to their own gardens. They must pull themselves out of their prolonged post-Objectivist torpor. There has been far too long a period of mourning for the god that failed. And they must now proceed to discover what their position actually entails. That of course will take time. But right now, they can certainly know what their position does *not* entail. By definition, a limited government position does not entail des-

troying the nation-state. And it does not entail supporting those who seek that destruction.

Contributing editor Edith Efron writes a regular column for *TV Guide* and is the author of several books. Her viewpoint appears in this column every third month, alternating with those of Alan Reynolds and Tibor Machan.

Editors Note: Due to the controversial nature of this month's Viewpoint, we have devoted more than the usual space to it. Other authors will address themselves to this important subject in future issues.

letters

[Continued from p. 10.]

statist rhetoric—and they may even be sincere in their hatred for the State, at

least in its present form. But that doesn't mean that they're our comrades in the battle for individual liberty. We must not fall into the trap of valuing rhetoric over philosophy.

Hopefully, I have made my point. It may seem like nit-picking to some, but it is my firm belief that our success in the marketplace of ideas will depend largely on how we package our product. And it is to this end that I have made these observations.

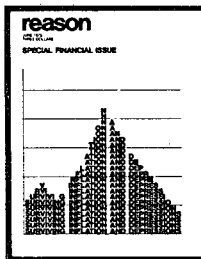
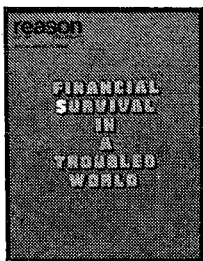
David F. Nolan
Denver, CO

Letters from readers are welcome. Each receives editorial consideration, although only a selection can be published and none individually acknowledged. Letters submitted for publication in this column should be typed, double-spaced. They should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. Send letters to REASON, P.O. Box 40105, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

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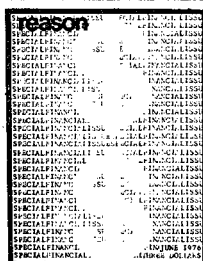


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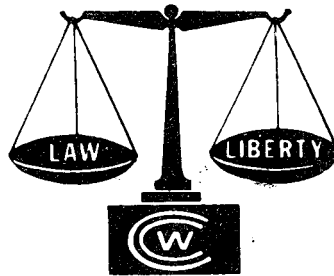
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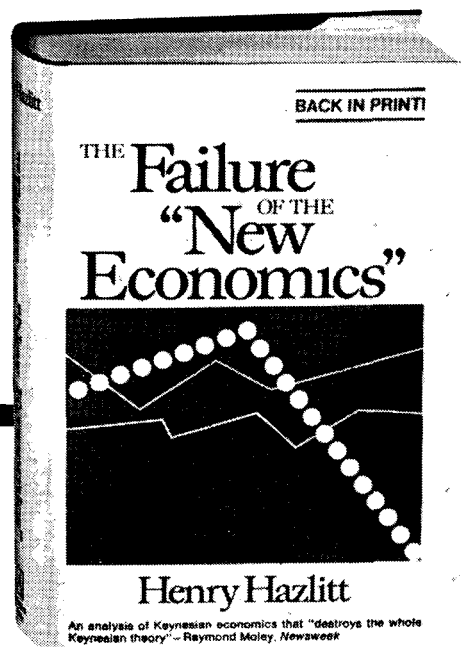
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