

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

~~should be Vol XI~~

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Hedlund Switches Gears

Massachusetts State Senator May Become First Weymouth Mayor

On July 14, active RLC advisory board member Bob Hedlund, a Republican state senator from Weymouth, Mass., announced his candidacy for mayor.

If elected, he will be Weymouth's first mayor, since the town recently changed its charter to alter its form of government from the traditional New England board of selectmen and town meeting to a mayor-and-council structure.

First elected to the State Senate in 1990, Hedlund has been unique - and often alone -- in defending taxpayers' interests in the legislature. With the state's premier taxpayer advocacy group, Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government, he filed legislation two years in a row to reduce the state's personal income tax from 5.95 to 5 percent.

In 1998, he opposed increasing the cap on the state stabiliza-



Republican State Sen. Bob Hedlund chats with fellow RLCers at the organization's 1996 convention.

tion fund without a public hearing - an increase that prevented an automatic tax break for citizens. In 1999, he filed legislation calling for the state legislature to make a declaration of need before using money from the stabilization fund, and requiring a public hearing before the cap on the fund could be raised.

Unlike many of his legislative colleagues, Hedlund is neither a professional politician nor a lawyer. Although he had worked on many Republican campaigns in

years past, and had been an early leader of the Massachusetts Young Republicans, he had never run for office before his State Senate bid in 1990. He says that as a small business owner in Weymouth, he

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Firefighters, Gun Owners Endorse Sabrin

On Aug. 5, the Murray Sabrin for U.S. Senate committee held its official campaign kickoff rally at the Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. More than 400 attended, including the president of the Newark firefighters union and the heads of the New Jersey Sportsmen Association and the New Jersey affiliate of the National Rifle Association. The occasion marked the 50th anniversary of Murray Sabrin's arrival in America in the arms of his parents who, having survived the Nazi holocaust, migrated to this country.

The rally began with a series of endorsements from the firefighters, gun owners and others. RLC Chairman Clifford Thies was the only out-of-state speaker.

Following the endorsements, Sabrin began with a tribute to his parents, who came to this country not to seek a handout but to seek a better life for themselves and their children. He then went on to pledge himself to defend the U.S. Constitution, including each amendment in the Bill of Rights, and to cut federal spending and return the surplus to the taxpayer.

He concluded by saying that his one hope was that on Jan. 3, 2001, his parents would be able join him when he takes his oath of office as a U.S. Senator.

According to the news media, Gov. Whitman's people continue to dismiss the Sabrin campaign as consisting of one-issue groups on the fringe of the Republican Party. This is of course what the country club elitists think of the grass-roots of our party -- the right-to-lifers, the home- and private-schoolers, the taxpayers, the gun owners, the libertarians, the small businessmen, the medical doctors and other health care providers, the property owners, those who believe in the U.S. Constitution, and now the police and firemen.

Following the rally, Sabrin left on an automobile tour of the state including a state trooper station, a gun show and the Salem County GOP picnic.

For more info, contact the website at www.murraysabrin.com.

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Lisy Courts Reagan Democrats in Cleveland Race

1999 is an off-election year in most states, it is also an opportunity for the RLC to build a foundation for future elections.

Several local elections offer an opportunity for libertarian Republican gains. One such opportunity is the Bedford (Ohio) City Council race, where RLC National affiliates liaison Ron Lisy is a candidate.

Lisy is challenging a vulnerable Democratic incumbent in the blue-collar "Reagan Democrat" Cleveland suburb. The nonpartisan election will be held Nov. 2.

The City of Bedford, with a population of about 14,000, and around 3,500 voting in municipal elections, employs the city manager form of government; therefore the council-at-large seat also is referred to as mayor, but functions more like a council president.

Lisy's campaign will benefit from the name recognition of his relative, the late Emil Lisy who served as mayor in a neighboring suburb of Maple Heights.

Ron Lisy has worked to build relationships with Bedford community leaders and current officeholders, as well as the Republican Party.

"The state and county Republican parties have been very supportive. I've worked on building a relationship with them for some time, both through my work with the RLC and Greater Cleveland Young Republicans and volunteer work with several Republican candidates."

"The party leaders know me pretty well, and I believe they're very comfortable with me and my philosophy."

"They've provided a lot of support with campaign laws, tactics and planning. I was even sent to a 'campaign management college' at Ohio GOP headquarters, where attendance was limited to 20 people from the entire state and included a sitting state rep," Lisy said.

The campaign will largely be a grass-roots effort, focusing on door-to-door campaigning and direct mail. Lisy also plans to make the most of earned media, as his candidacy announcement press release gained front-page coverage in both of Bedford's weekly

newspapers.

"If we get our message out, we'll win. People here are ready for a change." Lisy said.

"This isn't going to be an easy win, but I'm excited about the race. We will put in the work to make it happen. I expect to win!"

Any U.S. citizen may contribute to the Lisy campaign: Corporate checks cannot be accepted. Due to Ohio election law contributors of over \$200 must list their employer or occupation.

Contributions should be sent to: Citizens for Lisy, 27 Greencroft Rd., Bedford OH 44146.

Hedlund...from page 1

became "very dissatisfied" with the incumbent state senator, felt he could do a better job, and ran for it.

After 364 years under the traditional New England town form of government, with a population today of 56,000, Weymouth changed its charter, Hedlund says, "to improve accountability and streamline municipal operations." There had been many elected posts and committees, some of which had become so uncoordinated that they ended up suing one another. There have also been several instances of corruption and theft in recent town history. Residents hope to end all that with a strong executive mayor.

Asked about his campaign platform, Hedlund said the town also desperately needs improvements in roads, parks and other infrastructure, so part of his platform is "cleaning up the town, literally and figuratively."

He believes his libertarian philosophy will give him an advantage in approaching the town's problems. Though heavily Democratic in voter registration and heavily unionized, Weymouth is a very conservative town on tax issues. Hedlund says that "with the best antitax credentials in the legislature," he "can be counted on to keep taxes down in Weymouth."

A recent poll showed Hedlund as the front-runner in a field of 14 candidates. Among the four major candidates who held their campaign kickoffs at the Weymouth Elks Club, Hedlund drew the largest crowd.

Unfortunately, if he wins the mayoral election, he will be barred by the town charter from continuing to serve in the State Senate. But, while stressing that he is not seeking to use the mayoralty as "a jumping off point," he says that if he were ever to decide to run for Congress, serving as mayor would put him in a better position to do so.

RLC members and friends interested in supporting the Hedlund for Mayor campaign can write to the Committee to Elect Robert Hedlund, 66 Sea St., Weymouth, MA 02188.

Republican Liberty

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Help Elect Libertarian Republicans to Office

To help elect good libertarian Republican candidates, send your contributions to the RLC's PAC, the **RLFCF, 10878 Westheimer #395, Houston, TX 77042**. Individuals can contribute up to \$5,000 per year. No corporate contributions. The FEC requires we request employer and occupation information. The PAC financial reports are on file in Washington, DC.

When Martin Luther King Jr. encouraged us to judge each other "by the content our character," not by the color of our skin, he pricked the conscience of white Americans and helped create a new paradigm in race relations in this country. But somehow our race-obsessed governments have not fully taken the message to heart -- *yet*.



RLC to Welcome Ward Connerly to Florida

California Civil Rights Activist Ward Connerly is taking his successful Prop 209 to Florida

and the Florida RLC will be welcoming him as he hits shore.

Connerly, a businessman and a member of the University of California Board of Regents, helped focus the nation's attention on the university's race-based decision-making process. In 1995, following his lead, the majority of the regents voted to discard race as criteria in making admission decisions.

Then in 1995, Connerly accepted the chairmanship of the California Civil Rights Initiative (Prop 209), a campaign to restrict the state government's ability to discriminate on the basis of race. Under his leadership, the campaign collected over one million signatures to get the initiative on the ballot and voters approved it by a 55 to 45 percent margin.

Now Connerly, who is chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, is lending his hand to a Prop. 209-style campaign in Florida, aiming to put the Florida Civil Rights Initiative referendum in front of Florida voters.

The Florida RLC will be a cosponsor of one of the earliest FCRI events in Florida. Along with the Libertarian Party of Florida, *Voices of the Florida Taxpayer* and other organizations, the RLC will participate in a reception for Connerly on Sunday, Oct. 10 at the Sheraton near downtown West Palm Beach.

This public event will be held at the finale of the LPF's 1999 convention and will be chaired by Florida RLC Treasurer Philip Blumel. The RLC will also have a literature booth and will be signing up new members at the event. Tickets will be sold for the event beginning in mid-August.

To attend or to help man the RLC booth, call Blumel at (561) 616-0709.

RLC Notes

Besides the Ward Connerly event, the Florida RLC is having and will continue to have an active summer and fall.

The second big event of the year will be Victory 2000 the weekend of Oct. 8-9 in Orlando. This event is the latest in a series of conventions that have turned out to be the biggest event of the year for the Florida GOP. Four years ago, it was the site of the presidential straw poll under the name Presidency III.

This year, the Bush forces may have successfully nixed the straw poll, but the event will be a grand one nonetheless with a forum attended by the key presidential candidates -- and the RLC.

The group plans to host a booth complete with RLC literature and utilize the popular "Operation Politically Homeless" format in which conventioners fill out a questionnaire and have their political position plotted on the two-dimensional Nolan chart. Those who score in the libertarian quadrant will be invited to join the RLC.

The Florida RLC will also have a state meeting in conjunction with the event. Active RLC members from around the state are invited to join us for a strategy session and to add input to the

FL RLC business plan for 2000. Plus, volunteers are needed! Please call Florida RLC Chair Jeff Palmer at (305) 598-0602.

•••••

Florida RLC member George Blumel is a key organizer of a project to designate Dec. 15 as Bill of Rights Day in Florida.

Patterned after a successful effort in Colorado, the proposed bill would require that the Bill of Rights be read aloud in certain public buildings on the designated day.

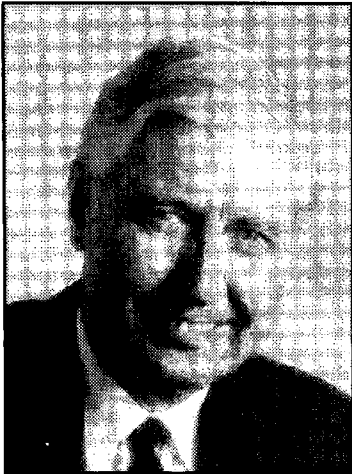
The proposal came from the Constitutional Committee of Florida, an ad hoc committee formerly a part of the Palm Beach County Republican Executive Committee.

The committee is also pushing for legislation to mandate that the nation's founding documents be taught in government schools.

For more information, or to lend you name as an endorser, please contact George Blumel at (561) 967-4971.



The Republican Betrayal ...A to Z



Harry Browne

by Harry Browne

Today there is much discussion over whether those who want smaller government should support the Republicans or defect to a third party. Those who support the Republicans say that, despite the party's failures, they still are better than Democrats.

But how are they better? The Republicans don't give you what you want, so what difference does it make to you whether they win or lose? Here are just 26 ways they have sold you out.

A is for the Asset forfeiture laws -- that weren't repealed, but given only cosmetic changes.

B is for the Budgets that just keep getting bigger.

C is for Corporate welfare -- which expands and expands.

D is for the Debt-- which

gets larger and larger.

E is for the Education and Energy Departments, which were supposed to be Eliminated, but have Expanded.

F is for Federalism -- trashed with every new GOP law.

G is for all the Gun control laws the GOP has caved in on.

H is for HillaryCare - the health care takeover the Democrats couldn't pass at once, but which the GOP is passing one bill at a time.

I is for IRS reform -- which was almost entirely a sham.

J is for all the Judges that Clinton has nominated and the Republicans have approved, even though the Judges don't support the Constitution.

K is for Keeping every single department and agency the Republicans promised to get rid of.

L is for Laws, Laws, and more Laws -- thousands of them -- passed by the Republican Congress.

M is for the Mandatory Minimum sentences, which are unconstitutional, immoral, and unjust.

N is for (what else?) the National Endowment for the Arts -- the Republicans' favorite fund-raising enemy, which of course they have enlarged, not eliminated.

O is for Overregulation, which continues to get worse.

P is for the Pay hike for congressmen.

Q is for the Quotas that never go away, despite the endless posturing against them by Republicans.

R is for Repealing laws -- something every Republican vows to do, but hasn't gotten around to. When will they start -- in 2009?

S is for Social Security privatization -- and for the GOP transition plan, which would take 60 years.

T is for the Tax burden, that continues to worsen for all Americans -- because every "tax cut" is nothing more than rearranging the awful cost of big government, which the Republicans have done nothing to lessen.

U is for the countless Usurpations of power that the Ninth and

To Be or Not to Be

A REPUBLICAN?

With the announcement that Republican Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire was considering leaving the GOP to run for president, there has been a lot of talk about abandoning the GOP. After all, the GOP revolution of 1994 has seems to entirely fizzled out -- even with a majority in Congress and an impeached president. *Is there any hope?*

Perhaps after 2000 with a Republican president. But as David Brooks pointed out in the *Weekly Standard* in August: "The leading Republican presidential contender [is] veering sharply away from the libertarian songbook."

As evidence Brooks quotes George W. Bush attacking Grover Norquist's "Leave Us Alone Coalition" -- the one that made 1994 possible -- as having a "destructive mindset."

"The idea that if government would only get out of our way, all our problems would be solved," Bush described this mindset in July. It is "an approach with no higher goal, no nobler purpose than 'leave us alone.'"

In this issue, we offer two opposing views on the situation. Harry Browne, like Sen. Smith a third-party candidate for president (Libertarian), paints the grim picture. In the second, RLC Executive Director Tom Walls answers. In his controversial essay, first published in *Spintech Magazine* in June, Walls demonstrates how the GOP's recent failures reiterate the need for a large and active RLC.

10th Amendments reserved for the people and the states.

V is for the Victory the Republicans declare when they pass a bill, or when they get the Democrats to tone down a bill, even though every bill passed expands government further.

W is for the Wars the Republicans always support -- enthusiastically or reluctantly, but support they do -- despite the bombing of innocent civilians, despite the rationale it provides for anti-American terrorists, despite putting our sons and daughters in harm's way.

X is for the Xenophobia the Republicans display against immigrants, imports -- and Serbs.

Y is for the unconstitutional and immoral Yugoslavian war, which Republicans not only didn't oppose vigorously, they exploited as an opportunity to pass pork-barrel political payoffs.

Z is for their Zealous pursuit of the insane War on Drugs, despite its obvious failure and despite the countless human tragedies.

If you remain with the Republicans, you're saying "well done" for the 26 betrayals listed above. If you want to reform the Republicans (or the Democrats), the best thing you can do is support the Libertarian Party.

This essay was first published on WorldNet Daily in July.

Electoral Success is Spelled...

by Thomas Walls,
RLC Executive Director

The ends of libertarian political activism are to limit the size and scope of government. Although the Republican Party is by no means a libertarian party, we in the Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) feel the GOP is the most convenient and efficient vehicle for libertarians to oppose big government in the modern political arena.

Surely, it has its drawbacks. The mere mention of Richard Nixon, George Bush Sr., or Bill Bennett should make any true lover of liberty shudder. But it is also the party of Bob Taft, the '64-era Barry Goldwater, Ron Paul and P.J. O'Rourke. I will submit that the GOP offers the best chance to catapult libertarian-oriented ideas into the mainstream and elect friends of liberty.

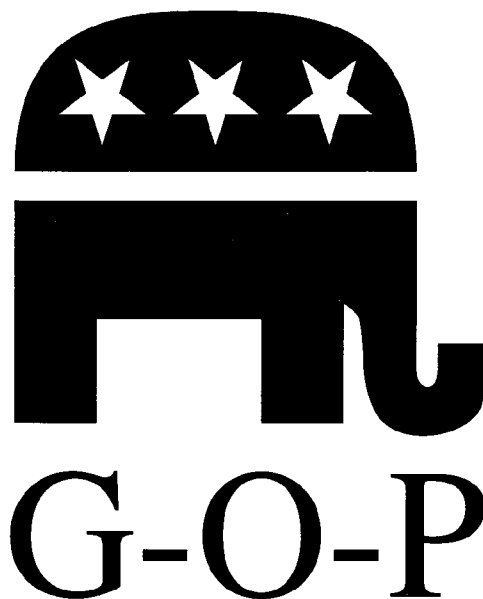
The Libertarian Party is a noble and worthy exercise in and of itself, but its chances for success in the world of two-party politics are severely limited. Many RLCers, including the National Committee, were and are LP members or activists. I worked in the LP for years; I was president of the University of Florida College Libertarians for over two years, and I worked in the LP's Washington, DC, headquarters. Like my LP comrades, I believed that an electoral breakthrough was around the corner. If only that were true...

As a political vehicle, the LP is a waste of time. Almost all resources are spent on getting the names of a few Quixotes on the ballot. The few third party campaigns that ever come within striking distance are those in which the candidate is rich or famous (like Ross Perot or Jesse Ventura) or when the incumbent dies (I prefer the latter), and even then it's extremely difficult.

As an educational tool, I think the LP is great. LPers were the ones who turned me on to organized libertarianism back in the mid-'80s. I handed out a lot of *LP News* and ISIL pamphlets in my day, and educated a lot of people. The LP does some very productive things - LP press releases are excellent critiques of big government excesses, both Republican and Democratic. Their internet campaign against the "Know Your Customer Laws" was key in killing the proposed regulations.

The LP does not, however, seem to be able to elect candidates any higher than nonpartisan local offices. The few state legislators that the LP has ever claimed were endorsed by Republicans (as in Alaska) or were fusion candidates or nominees of both Republican and Libertarian parties (as in New Hampshire).

From time to time, I have encountered biting hostility from



Libertarians should take advantage of the apparatus that is already in place. They can very easily get involved with the local GOP and run for office as Republicans. You don't have to dilute your libertarianism or abandon your principles.

LPers who preach that "The Party" is the only way to go, as if belonging to any political party were necessary for reasons of ideological purity. These types are the ones whom RLC Treasurer Mike Holmes calls the "fantasy role-playing game crowd."

Since the Libertarian Party is quite small, it is easy to assume an impressive title. These fantasy role-players have their party roles to play as committee person, regional coordinator, campaign manager, etc., just as in *Dungeons and Dragons*, you can play an Elf, Dwarf, Cleric, Thief and soon. Mock fights are held, squabbles ensue over points of order, and bitter rivalries spring up between people who are really friends. At the end of the day, the posturing, the battles and the intrigues don't make a damned bit of difference in the real world.

I do feel that libertarianism is the most cutting-edge philosophy in America, and that it holds the most promise for defining the political debates of the future. The GOP is a convenient vehicle for electing principled people committed to free-market ideas. Ron Paul, the most principled member of Congress, could not have gotten elected as a Libertarian. I have heard a number of LPers ask Ron when he is going to "switch back" to the Libertarian Party. His answer: "I never left it."

Libertarians do have the answers, and we know it. This very knowledge, however, obscures our perception of the real world. Libertarian Party activists need to own up to the fact that the majority of the electorate does not size up a candidate in terms of ideological purity, whether conservative, liberal or libertarian. A percentage of voters will inevitably vote the party line. GOP voters will instinctively trust the Republican, for vaguely the right reasons. But we can't expect the average voter to articulate profound philosophies or name any dead economists. That's where we come in.

Libertarians should take advantage of the apparatus that is already in place. They can very easily get involved with the local GOP and run for office as Republicans. The GOP would be much better off with a healthy influx of libertarian thought, and it is ripe for the picking. You don't have to dilute your libertarianism or abandon your principles.

We in the RLC work with principled conservatives as well as libertarians. Sometimes it doesn't work out to everyone's satisfaction. Rep. Chris Cox (R-CA) quietly withdrew from our advisory

(Continued on page 7)

RLC Notes

What if a Republican Governed Cambridge?

Don't laugh. David Trumbull, Massachusetts RLC secretary and chairman of the Cambridge Republican City Committee, is running for Cambridge City Council on a pro-property rights, pro-freedom platform.

On June 22, almost 60 supporters of Mass. RLC chapter secretary David Trumbull packed the back room of the Fishery restaurant in Central Square for the formal kickoff of his campaign.

Cambridge resident Denise Jillson, former campaign manager for the Joe Malone campaign for governor and leader of the ballot campaign that led to the elimination of rent control in Massachusetts, reminded Trumbull's supporters that "we have to protect our rights" as citizens and property owners in light of the city council's efforts to restore rent control and restrict changes homeowners can make to their property.

Trumbull roused the crowd with his assertion that "we need a councilor who will stand up for property owners, for taxpayers, for the ordinary people of Cambridge who have little or no voice on the City Council because the incumbents all pander to small but well-organized special interests."

"Our elected officials," he continued, "all subscribe to the theory that any and all human questions are in want of a governmental solution. I utterly reject that premise."

Trumbull denounced the city council's ban on outdoor smoking in public parks and on "government by symbolic gesture," such as the city council order boycotting Myanmar (formerly Burma) which the U.S. Supreme Court found to be unconstitutional.

Trumbull, who is chairman of the Cambridge Republican City Committee, is running on a pro-freedom, pro-property rights platform that sets him apart from the other candidates, and is touting his Republican affiliation to energize Cambridge's 4,000 Republican voters in an effort to help rebuild the party in the city. But, says campaign chairman Alan Cousin, who is also chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus Massachusetts chapter, "with two open seats on the council, strong fund-raising, and clearly defined issues and a well-defined vote base, David has an excellent chance at

winning a seat."

For more info or to help out, write Elect David Trumbull, P.O. Box 391744, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Reform Party Courts Ron Paul

If Jack Gargan, chairman-elect of the Reform Party, had his way, Sen. Bob Smith wouldn't be the only GOP deserter in the presidential race in 2000.

Gargan told the press in late July that he would like U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, a Texas Republican who ran for the White House in 1988 on the Libertarian Party ticket, to seek his party's 2000 presidential nomination.

"He is one of us," said Jack Gargan, who takes office on Jan. 1. "He is a real reformer."

Paul, 63, reached on Capitol Hill, said he was surprised by Gargan's comments, and had no interest in taking another crack at the White House. "I have no intention of doing that," said Paul. "I'd be happy to take Jack's call, but I don't think he could change my mind."

Others being considered as possible nominees include: Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan; Donald Trump and former Oklahoma Sen. David Boren.

But Gargan said: "Congressman Ron Paul of Texas. He is at the top of my list."

Popkin Elected to School Board

In May, Gary Popkin, former RLC chair for New York was elected to a New York City school board. He plans on pushing schools to opt becoming charter schools.

According to a 1998 law on charter schools, this provides a school with funding that bypasses the local school board bureaucracy.

Tiaht: Time to Nix DOE

Amid allegations of nuclear spying by China, RLC Advisory Board Member U.S. Rep. Todd Tiaht is once again pushing for the abolition of the department of Energy.

Rep. Todd Tiaht's idea follows a special House committee report alleging that China stole America's nuclear weapons secrets from DOE laboratories. Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., chair of that panel is a cosponsor of Tiaht's legislation.

Dismantling DOE has been an aim of Tiaht since he rode to Congress in the 1994 election wave that swept Republicans into control of the House.

Outside estimates by such think tanks as the libertarian Cato Institute estimate that such a move would save taxpayers \$20 billion annually over the next five years.

In his 1998 campaign, Wichita-based Koch Industries, the oil-and-ranching conglomerate that is the nation's second-largest privately held company, gave over \$30,000 to his campaign. David Koch and other members of the Koch family have a history of funding libertarian campaigns and organizations.

Lesson from Colorado

"Weeks after the tragedy in Colorado, the most common media question still is, 'What can we learn from this?' If nothing else, we've seen that a high school is the perfect model for the helplessness of a society in which only the criminals are armed."

--Comic strip character/philosopher Mallard
Fillmore, May 1999

RLC Notes

Lt. Gov. Rogers at Breakfast of Champions

Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers was the featured speaker Aug. 9 at the Breakfast of Champions hosted by the Nevada Republican Liberty Caucus at the Country Inn in Green Valley. A recent speech before the Republican National Committee instantly made him a sought-after speaker by GOP groups from coast to coast.

Anti-Drug War Governor Backs Forbes

New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, who raised eyebrows in and out of the GOP earlier this year by considering drug legalization as an approach to deal with drug-related crime and violence, embraced Steve Forbes for president recently calling him "the man with ideas."

Forbes was the featured speaker at two campaign events for Johnson in Albuquerque last July.

Buchanan Reaches Out to Libertarians

Presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan has been making explicit appeals for help from libertarians in his campaign for president. And his vocal opposition to Clinton's War did push him up a notch in many libertarian's estimation, even as they are put off by much of his ideas on trade, immigration and social policy.

In one of his latest appeals, Buchanan was commenting on the potential third-party run of Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH).

"I would urge Bob not to walk away from the Republican Party yet, because if we win that Republican nomination, if we put it together with the Reform Party ... if these ideas will win them back and bring the [U.S.] Taxpayers Party back and part of the Libertarian Party back, I think the way to go is to get that Republican nomination."

"Skunk" Wants To Be a Congressman

Former member of the rock and roll bands Doobie Brothers and Steely Dan, guitarist Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is going to run for Congress next year -- as a Republican. Baxter -- a strong proponent of a space-based antiballistic missile defensive system and Second Amendment gun rights -- has hired a political consultant to explore making a run next year against incumbent U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA).

Baxter is close friends with U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), who told the *Washington Post* last week that Baxter is "going to throw his beret in the ring," a reference to Baxter's favored headgear.

Republicans believe the wealthy musician will be able to run a strong race against the perennially vulnerable Sherman.

Gov. Bush Embraces Privatization

Echoing Steve Forbes, Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush has embraced the idea of allowing workers to put



RLC Advisory Board member and Texas State Rep. John Culberson at his Congressional primary race announcement event on June 3. Rep. Culberson is now the frontrunner for the seat currently occupied by U.S. Rep. Bill Archer, and has earned the support of several of Rep. Archer's staffers. From left, Texas RLC Vice Chair Linda Thomas, RLC Treasurer Mike Holmes, Rep. Culberson, Texas RLC Chair Lonnie Brantley and national RLC Secretary Rob Booth Jr.

part of their Social Security payroll taxes into their own individual retirement accounts. Columnist Donald Lambro is amazed that Bush "now seems ready to campaign on an idea that was once only supported by arch-libertarians."

Tom Walls...from page 5

board when *Roll Call* magazine announced that the RLC opposed the flag burning amendment. But no one called each other names, and we are all still Republicans going about our business.

We in the RLC provide a warm haven and home for the top 30 percenters, under the strategic view that we can rely on them for most issues and that our access and consistency will help us win over the final few remaining issues. To persuade, you first have to get someone to listen. And you listen to your friends, not your opponents.

It's not much of a challenge to debate one another in a small, relatively homogenous group like the LP. The GOP, on the other hand, is a big tent. Many are motivated by factors other than lofty ideas, and libertarians might feel alienated at GOP gatherings because of cultural differences or the lack of intellectual discussion. I know I do. But that's the real world, and it underscores the need for principled, skilled people to become part of the process or even take charge of it.

If you are well-groomed, polite and articulate, you just may win the loyalty of those GOPers who don't go much for deeper elements of philosophical discourse. They will stuff envelopes for you, run phone banks and put signs in their yard. Libertarians serious about real change should drop the fantasy games and enter the real world.

A longer version of this essay first appeared in Spintech Magazine June 12 1999.

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