

# libertarian party correspondent—

Post election activity of the Libertarian Party has centered around the organizational efforts of the thirty affiliated state parties. State organizations from Alaska to New York are laying the groundwork for a greater impact on the political process in 1974.

Less than one year ago 89 delegates met in Denver at the first national convention of the Libertarian Party. Indicative of the subsequent growth of the Party was the first statewide convention of the Libertarian Party of California (LPC), held March 9-11 in Fresno. Because of its significance to the national party I am devoting the majority of this report to that convention.

The California convention was marked by the same enthusiasm evident at the Denver gathering last June. Present were 115 delegates representing 18 of the 20 regions into which the LPC is divided. This meeting possessed, however, an additional element of purposefulness, a kind of quiet confidence on the part of the delegates that did not exist at this time last year. The numerous successes of the past year have apparently convinced many LP members that the public is indeed ready to listen to a rational alternative to the major political parties.

Of interest to libertarians nationally is an initiative petition that the California Party will attempt to get on the ballot in 1974. After discussing possible initiatives on victimless crimes, tax reduction and getting minority parties on the ballot, the Convention selected the idea of placing a time limit on most laws. While the details have yet to be worked out, by requiring the legislature to re-pass laws after they have been on the books 10 or 15 years the initiative would have the effect of disposing of many laws while significantly limiting the time available to our busy bureaucrats to pass new ones.

On the last day of the Convention delegates listened to speeches by libertarian dignitaries John Hospers and Antony Sutton. Hospers spoke on the "Libertarian temperament", identifying it as a creative one interested in changing man's environment and contrasting it to the insecure, defensive temperaments of bureaucrats and most academicians. Sutton, a recent convert to libertarianism

who is the author of *WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*, identified all "producers" as potential allies of libertarians and encouraged the delegates to find a common area of agreement when discussing libertarianism with a "non-believer", then point out the consistency of the rest of our beliefs.

In other business, the Libertarian Party of California adopted a Constitution providing for a decentralized organization that places responsibility for growth at the local level. Dues will be split equally between the state and its regional subdivisions.

Los Angeles attorney Ed Clark (National LP Vice Chairman) was elected Chairman of the LPC with Bill White and your LP correspondent being chosen as Vice Chairmen for the northern and southern halves of the state, respectively. California now has over 400 members in the state party and if the state convention was any indication it can be expected that this Party will be a major factor in California politics before the end of the decade.

## STATE PARTY REPORTS

**ALASKA.** John Hospers reports back from his recent trip to the Alaskan state convention that there is more enthusiasm for libertarianism among the general populous in that state than in any other he visited. Hospers says the LP is very well organized in the state and that it is looking into the possibility of supporting a growing Alaskan secession movement.

**ARIZONA.** Freeman Fox deserves considerable credit for helping get this state party organized to the point where it is one of the most active in the nation.

**CALIFORNIA.** Roger Scime is a candidate for Los Angeles Junior College District Board of Trustees. He is running on a libertarian platform which includes calling for the sale of various academic departments within the junior colleges to private companies so they can run them.

**NEW YORK.** The Free Libertarian Party will hold its annual convention March 30-April 1 at the Williams Club on East 39th Street. The FLP phone number

is (212)354-0292. The Party's monthly newsletter "Free Libertarian" is excellent and subscriptions may be obtained by writing to FLP, Inc., 15 West 38th Street, New York, New York 11018.

**OHIO.** The OLP is working on arrangements for the national LP Convention which will be held June 7-10 in Strongsville. Kay Harroff reports that OLP membership is over 50 and growing fast.

**OKLAHOMA.** The Libertarian City Committee of Norman is running a candidate for the Norman City Council. Steven Browne, a 21-year anthropology major at the University of Oklahoma. Browne is running as an avowed laissez-faire capitalist who wants to severely curtail city government and taxes.

**OREGON.** Hospers ran 5th in Oregon, ahead of the two socialists and Gus Hall. The Oregon Newsletter reports the following electoral college vote: Hospers 1; Others 537. The Oregon LP has the benefit of receiving advice from the first woman in the history of the United States to get an electoral vote, LP Vice-Presidential candidate Tonie Nathan.

**TEXAS.** TLP newsletter "Renaissance News" reports that the first annual ILS (Institute for Libertarian Studies) Seminar Conference will be held in Dallas April 21st. Guy Story Brown reports that interest in the seminar is very high and it is hoped that individuals from all parts of the country will attend. For more information write to Mr. Brown c/o TLP, 802 East Elwood, Irvine, Texas 75061.

## NOTES

Roger MacBride, new folk hero of the LP, was in Los Angeles recently. As the Virginia elector who cast his electoral vote for John Hospers, LP Presidential candidate, MacBride's presence enabled the LP to receive coverage from the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* at long last . . . State LP parties should send newsletter items to me at the following address: Reason Reports c/o LPC, PO Box 71383, Los Angeles, California 90071 . . .

Ed Crane

# foreign correspondent

## BRITISH TORY PARTY CONFERENCE—1972

### London, England

The Prime Minister's conversion to socialism could well be termed Heath-in-reverse, if one cares to remember his 1970 election promises of a freer and more competitive society. The bonds which now unite the Tory Party are the same as those which have united the Labour Party for so long—envy, hatred and malice towards riches, talent and personal independence. The main differences being, the socialists know why they are supporting such measures. As for the Tories attending the Blackpool Conference, they dozed off in their seats, apparently unaware of Ministers performing a volte-face, only to pull themselves together at the end of each speech to applaud and vote for the said motion.

Here are a few examples which demonstrate the incredible inconsistencies and mental confusion which characterized the October conference. The resolution in favour of the entry of Ugandan Asians was carried by a majority of two to one. But this inconsistency was no more telling than when an ovation was given to one delegate for his ambiguous speech, dubiously supporting compulsory sterilization of Asian immigrants!

The debate on Ulster raged against the Government until Willy Whitelaw (alias Wesley Mooch) Minister for Northern Ireland, delivered an appalling speech of sweet nothings which brought most delegates to their feet in passionate support of they knew not what.

At a special meeting Robert Carr, Home Secretary, addressed a group of Conservative left-wing students. In his true hard-hitting style he proclaimed that it was our duty to help people help themselves, and the way to achieve this with our poorer neighbours was to substantially increase our foreign aid. That we were still a power to be recognized as having a heart, and one of the few countries to achieve the minimum rate of aid proscribed by that bastion of integrity and fairness—the United Nations.

Later in the conference hall Mr. Carr, speaking on Law, Order and Pornography, stated: "I am opposed to censorship but we must clear away the excesses such as public displays on book stalls, cinema and television."

The next session raised the question of trade. As one minister so succinctly put it, "Free trade—never! The rest of the world won't agree to it—how can we be expected to? Foreign labour would bring about a rise in the unemployment figures. The Uganda Asians, well that is a different matter. They are on the whole morally robust, thrifty, enterprising and self-evidently independent people." Is that the reason that the government is buying houses for them and that families are receiving something like £28 a week in benefits (over six times the old age pension) till March 1973 by which time it is assumed they will be comfortably settled in. For someone who does not believe in racial discrimination, Mr. Carr's speech does not ring true. However he did convince me that it was an expensive way to buy votes.

As the platitudes washed over the audience in a succession of boring debates one could easily be forgiven for wondering if this was not a Tory conference in England but instead a seminar on brotherly love sponsored by the Kremlin. This nightmare image was soon overtaken by reality and took the form of Mr. John Selwyn, MP and Vice Chairman of the Party. He accused the party of being too boring and added, "We have to wear our hearts on our sleeves a great deal more than we have done, because if we don't people will believe that we have no heart at all." Heaven forbid! But nevertheless free marketeers, take heart, it was done in the name of compassion not reason.

The debate on industry also omitted any mention of reason. For this one the Tories pulled out of their home spun top hat the Labour Manifesto, a shining example of that bag of promises labelled "We Care Too!" It included no less than wide-spread grants, regional employment premiums, growth points and grey areas. One was not able to find out what all these terms meant, but the government has assured us that a Special Ministry has been set up to deal with any ambiguities that may arise. When John Davies, then Ministry of Industry, who has had more conversions than most politicians, was reminded of his commitment to disentangle industry from government; he answered in true blue style and side stepped the question altogether. His advocacy of massive regional subsidies and of state direction over almost every

economic activity was delivered with all the enthusiasm of a true believer. As John O'Sullivan stated in the *DAILY TELEGRAPH*, his earlier devotion to free enterprise was clearly a temporary aberration. As Mr. Davies speech only mirrored the rest of the Tory Party's conversion to pure socialism, a renegade's proposal for noninterference in the economy was soundly defeated in the true Lemming-like manner so consistent with Conservative Party supporters.

The industrial relations debate began with no less than another example of vintage, labour party participation accompanied by a few enthusiastic choruses of "We are equal now." Mr. John Goss wanted not merely profit sharing but the legal control of industry transferred from the shareholders to the workers. Someone might have been moved to ask "Where would the capital come from?" But common sense was not the popular tune for this debate except when two speakers from the floor proposed such radical ideas as cutting benefits to strikers and a crackdown on violent picketing. For a brief moment one could detect a spark of interest and enthusiasm, only to see it die with a rambling, vague speech by Maurice Macmillan, Minister of Employment and Productivity.

Throughout the conference inconsistencies fell from the mouths of the Tory speakers as easily as promises fall from the mouths of politicians at election time. But the debate on inflation attained this distinction more than any other.

Does a substantial increase in the money supply cause inflation? Well . . . yes it does, but . . . no it doesn't. For further divine and inane utterances read on.

Anthony Barber who was appointed only two years ago as Chancellor of the Exchequer states these contradictory beliefs with pontifical assurance: "Control of the money supply and the free play of competition as a solution to Britain's ills would lead to economic stagnation, far greater unemployment and a lower standard of living." He went on to say with religious fervour, "This is not a price that I am willing to pay." He accepted that the government proposals to the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Confederation of British Industry