

Green*Star

a quarterly publication of the Green Party of Pennsylvania

www.gpofpa.org

Vol. 7, Issue 1

Spring
2009

Notes on the Economy

by Titus North

In 1971 Richard Nixon famously proclaimed "we are all Keynesians now." A slowing economy led Nixon (who believed that a recession contributed to his razor-thin loss to Kennedy in 1960) to give up his traditional fiscal conservatism and engage in deficit spending in order to boost the economy and improve his re-election chances.

Ironically, by 1971 true Keynesianism was already dead in the United States. Deficit spending during recessions is only half of British economist John Maynard Keynes' prescription for fiscal management. The other half is running budget surpluses during times of economic expansion - but the Vietnam War made large-scale deficit spending the norm even during an economic expansion, and marked the end of Keynesianism.

Except for the "Internet Bubble" years of 1999-2000, the federal government (not including Social Security) has run budget deficits every single year since Nixon's statement, and typically quite massive ones. We generally ignored Keynes' advice to run surpluses, but now when facing a depression we expect Keynesian stimulus to save us. It won't work - but don't blame it on Keynes, regardless of what you think of him. He never said "borrow megabucks from China during expansions and then just print money during recessions." Printing dollars to pay for stimulus will eventually lead to runaway inflation and completely undermine international faith in the dollar. Hyperinflation can cause depressions as easily as deflation.

Our economic system can well be described as "economic militarism." By this I mean not just that our economy is oriented towards warmaking, but also that our economy depends on our military might. This allows us to dominate the international system and impose an economic order that in turn finances our military. Not only do we use our military to secure resources and markets, but we also use it in effect to bully foreign governments to purchase U.S. treasuries, keep dollars as a reserve currency, and support U.S.-dominated international financial institutions.

However, domination is not the same as dictatorial control, and American domination has always required a considerable amount of cooperation from other countries. Furthermore, this power has always been shared with markets. Moreover, recent history has shown that there are limits to what can be done with military might, and the economic crisis demonstrates that America's economic dependence on other countries and on markets is quite considerable. The cooperation required to maintain the current U.S.-dominated system cannot be taken for granted.

Therefore, in responding to the economic crisis, what we need is not a further ballooning of our already massive deficit, but rather a reorientation of our priorities. We must recognize that economic militarism is unsustainable. We already depend on funds borrowed from other countries to pay for our wars and overseas bases, but soon nobody will be willing to loan

(continued on page 3)

PA Greens in New Orleans

by Guy Gray and Greta Browne

Over the Christmas/New Year's break, we took a fairly low-carbon-footprint vacation to New Orleans. We traveled there by bus and train, but had to fly back because of time and money constraints. We had pre-registered with an outfit named GreenLight (www.greenlightneworleans.org) to do a day of volunteer work installing CFL's (compact fluorescent lights) in homes. The goal of the project, founded by a Swiss musician who has lived in New Orleans for 15 years, is to replace all the traditional light bulbs in as many homes, schools and non-profit organizations as possible.

Our job involved loading up a couple of backpacks with equipment, jumping on bikes provided by GreenLight, and pedaling off to a home where they were expect-

ing us. We did two houses. The homeowners welcomed us and seemed very pleased to let us go through and install the CFL's. We went over some printed material with them that showed how much they might be able to save on electric bills with the new bulbs, as well as the amount of carbon savings that would result from the replacements.

To complete the commitment to do our tiny share, we volunteered at a soup kitchen one evening. But we also wanted to see the effects of Katrina on the people and

(continued on page 2)



Guy Gray and Greta Browne

PA Ballot Access Update

by Bob Small

Currently VCA (Voter's Choice Act), aka SB 252, is in the State (Senate) Government Committee, having been introduced by State Senator Mike Folmer (R) on Feb 17th, 2009. This bill, which would eliminate the signature process for state-wide and national candidates and replace it with the Delaware model, which uses votes cast or registered voters (for exactly what this means, see SB 252 in the PA State Senate website, www.legis.state.pa.us - click on "Bill number" and enter SB252). This VCA bill, primarily crafted by the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition, currently has 8 Co-Sponsors: 2 Democrats, Lisa Boscola and Jim Ferlo, and 5 Republicans, Lisa Baker, Patrick Browne, Jane Earl,

Jeffrey Piccola and Rob Wonderling.

In order to move forward, we are trying to persuade the Chair, Charles T. McClhinny, Jr. to agree to hold public hearings on this bill. By the time you read this in the Green Star, we should at least have had this Public Hearing scheduled. We also need Green Party members to call and, if possible, meet with their State Senators, especially these nine in the State Government Committee:

Michael W. Brubaker
Jake Corman
Andrew E. Dinniman
John Pippy
Joseph B. Scarnati III
Christine M. Tartaglione
Leanna M. Washington
Donald C. White
Anthony H. Williams

If you want to have a Local Libertarian, etc., join you in your meeting with your State Senator, please contact me by e-mail or at 610-543-8427. This way it will not be seen as a "Green Party" issue. This may be especially helpful with Democrats. Hopefully, we can move this bill to the State Senate floor and then to the State House and then to the Governor, Ed Rendell. ✘

Seasonal note:

Spring is the season of ECOLOGY. During this season, focus on/think about/discuss the Key Values of Ecological Wisdom, Future Focus/Sustainability, and Global Responsibility.
- Skip Mendler



Green Party of Pennsylvania Contact Information

P.O. Box 11962
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962
888-PA1-GREEN
www.gpofpa.org

Steering Committee

Hilary Kane, Chair
Blyden Potts, Secretary
Jay Sweeney
Greta Browne Greg Catalone
Robin White Jessica Ashman

Administrative Committee

Blyden Potts
Ed Bortz

Communications Committee

Randi Peters, Chair
Hillary Kane
Paula Bronstein Guy Gray
Skip Mendler Michael Ochs
Mary Riley Charles Sherrouse
Bob Small Chuck Steel

In This Issue:

- ➔ Notes on the Economy
 - ➔ PA Ballot Access update
 - ➔ PA Greens in New Orleans
 - ➔ How to Communicate with Other Greens
 - ➔ Local events
- And more!*

Green Party US Ecoaction Committee:
Proposal 380 ADOPTED!
Proposal Protecting Water is a Priority for
the Green Party at the National, State
and Local Levels
The Eco-Action Committee's mission
is to help organize greens for local and
national events, and to protect and promote
ecological wisdom and sustainability.
www.gp.org

Local Organizing and Events

YORK: The Green Party of York County held their latest meeting on April 2nd at 631 S. Pine Street, in York city to plan their involvement at an Earth Day event on April 18th. The event is entitled "Go Green in the City." The web link for this event is www.sweetmelissasdream.com/gogreen.html. Petitions, voter registrations and t-shirt sales will take place on that day. Also, Steve Baker, the County Chair, will be running for Auditor in Springettsbury Township, York County. "The township needs a good fiscal watchdog to protect the taxpayer's investment in good government," says Baker. The York Green Party is currently seeking other candidates to run for office in the area. www.yorkgreenparty.org

BERKS: Members attended the US-FA March 10th Sludge Conference in Bowers, PA (www.usludgefree.org) featuring speakers Dr. Murray McBride (Cornell) and Georgia farmers Andy McElmurray and Bill Boyce. It was a rousing success, with a mix of farmers, elected officials and concerned citizens from all parts of PA. BCGP meetings every 2nd Tuesday, 7pm, Hard Bean Cafe, West Reading. www.berksgreenparty.org

WAYNE: The Wayne County Green Party Committee (WCGPC) had its Annual Meeting and Spring Celebration on Sunday, March 22 at Treasurer Beverly Beers' house in Bethany. Former GPPA Treasurer and State House candidate Jay Sweeney visited from Wyoming County. Greens discussed changes to the WCGPC platform document, and watched a PowerPoint presentation called "In Search of Greener Politics" by Chair Skip Mendler. We also enjoyed apples, organic cheese, and Irish soda bread. We are planning a series of educational events for the rest of the year. <http://waynecogreens.wordpress.com> (continued on page 4)

How can I communicate with other PA Greens?

The Green Party of Pennsylvania uses the following communication media:

- gppa-delegates-discuss@gpofpa.org is an email list that reaches delegates (and most officers) of local PA Green Parties. This is probably the best way to reach Green activists and local green parties across the state.
- gppa-delegates-announce@gpofpa.org is an email list that is intended to be low-volume, one-way notification (i.e. posting to this list is mainly limited to steering committee folks, and the Green Star editor) of important alerts (e.g. meeting changes, Green Star deadlines, etc) and is not intended for general news or columns. Generally we ask that people avoid posting to this list, unless what you have to announce is a crucial organizational announcement.
- gppa-discussion@gpofpa.org is an email list that reaches a broad audience of people (mostly in PA) who have expressed interest in PA Green issues. This is a good way to reach a swath of Green audience on a fairly frequent basis.

- gppa-steering@gpofpa.org is an email list that goes ONLY to the GPPA Steering Committee.
- The *Green Star* is our (roughly) quarterly newsletter. It goes out in paper or electronic (pdf) format to several hundred recipients across the state. We envision growing the circulation of this medium over time so that it ultimately reaches thousands or tens of thousands. This is the medium with the widest circulation, but can only be delivered on the GS schedule, and is edited by the GS staff, so any submission has to be accepted by them and meet their standards.
- The Green Party of PA website www.gpofpa.org also provides a venue for posting news, files, calendar items, etc. This offers the widest POTENTIAL circulation, but relies on people to access it rather than being delivered to the audience. Moreover it is restricted in terms of the nature mainly to those particular items (i.e. news, meeting announcements, calendar items, etc.). Submitted news items are subject to editorial approval. ✕

PA Greens in New Orleans (cont'd from page 1)

neighborhoods of the city. We went on a fabulous art tour, which took us to the Ninth Ward as well as to museums and sites in various parts of the city.

Our overall impression was that if you didn't know about Katrina you wouldn't realize the extent of devastation the city experienced. However, when you looked through a more sensitive lens, you could see the empty lots with just the foundation showing through, the water marks on homes, and other telltale signs. In the Garden District, where we stayed in a hostel, there was very little evidence of damage from the storm, and of course this is where the big beautiful homes are built, high enough to avoid flooding.

We will return to New Orleans in March as part of Greta's 2000-mile "Walk for All the Grandchildren." The goal of this project is to call attention to the Climate Change Crisis and to disseminate information about the problem, its causes, and actions that individuals and communities can take to help lower

our carbon footprints. Please read about this Walk at climatewalk.homestead.com, and forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com.

The Walk began in Galveston, Texas, on March 8, and will proceed through New Orleans and then north along Route 11 to Rouses Point, NY, on the Canadian border. Greta is looking for walking companions, and for a driver for a support vehicle. You can contact her at greta_browne@hotmail.com. ✕

Update: Green Party leader Greta Browne was recently featured in an article in the Tuscaloosa News as she passed through the area: www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20090406/NEWS/904059951/1007/NEWS02?Title=Environmental-efforts-come-one-step-at-a-time

Greta has served as a member of the GPPA Steering Committee, a delegate to the Green Party National Committee, and numerous positions at the local level. She also ran for office several times as a Green, including for Congress in the 15th District.

Notes on the Economy (continued from page 1)

us real money only to be repaid with newly printed "Monopoly money." We might as well fold our cards and recognize that the militaristic game we have been playing was not worth winning anyway.

Rather than engaging in deficit spending for its own sake, we should be spending money on what we really need - like health care, genuine renewable energy, and education - and stop spending it on wars, overseas bases, and endless weapons systems. We get very little "bang" from these bucks, economically speaking.

Years of militaristic propaganda have given many Americans a deep psychological attachment to all things military - but we could even link the cut in military spending dollar-for-dollar to cuts in the income tax.

What better way to educate people about how much militarism has been costing them? There are still plenty of other corporate welfare programs that could be eliminated to make room for more important spending priorities. There are many worthy programs included in the Obama stimulus package, but the whole thing is doomed to failure if we go into hyperinflation. I'm not saying we have to balance the budget this year, but let's cut out the massive militaristic waste that not only fails to provide us any benefits but actually does us real harm. ✕

Titus North teaches political science at the University of Pittsburgh and is a two-time Green Party candidate for U.S. Congress. His latest novel, Operation Patriotic Toilet Seat, is available through enlightened-pyramid.com.

Fundraising Appeal

by Jay Sweeney, Outgoing Treasurer

I know many of us are feeling the effects of the current recession. Times are hard and will undoubtedly get harder. Who will stand up and speak out for sound economic policies? Who will speak out against expanding nuclear power and deregulating the electric utilities? Who will expose the dangers of drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale? Who will work to see that our democracy and civil rights are defended? The Green Party of Pennsylvania has and will continue to address all of the above. Just like the U.S. economy, the finances of the GPPA are dire. Our

current assets are below \$1,000.00. This will not cover our needs for even the most modest of expenses including paying for meeting space, printing, postage, and web and phone services for the year. We need an infusion of cash to meet these and other expenses.

Please consider a donation now to get us through the year. You may also choose to sustain us with a monthly donation equivalent to one hour's wage per month. No donation is too small and any money we receive will be put to good use. ✕

Worth More than the Paper It's Printed On

by Blyden Potts

If you are reading these words on a printed Green Star, you might want to consider going paperless.

The Green Star is available in a paperless format. We always print on recycled paper, but going paperless is even better for the environment! And paperless Green Stars cost us almost nothing to produce, while printing and mailing the paper editions costs GPPA money that could otherwise be spent on candidates, issue campaigns, or better ballot access. The paperless version is a PDF document, which requires you

to have Adobe Reader or similar software (which is probably already on your computer, but may be downloaded for free online from Adobe). It comes as a file attachment on an email about four times a year. If you would like to receive the Green Star in paperless format, simply send an email with your name and address, indicating that you want to receive the Green Star in paperless, PDF format to GPPA Secretary Blyden Potts at blyden4@comcast.net.

If you want to continue to receive the printed version, could you help us cover the printing costs and postage by sending us a donation check for a few dollars today? There is a donation form below. Thank you! ✕

DANCING TREES

WEB DESIGN

DISCOUNTS FOR

GREEN GROUPS & BUSINESSES

www.dancingtreesweb.com

Support the Green Party of Pennsylvania!

GPPA Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____ * see instructions box for donation requirements

Employer Info _____

I would like _____ copies (\$15/ea.) of the "Party with a Purpose" CD, whose cost will be deducted from my donation, including shipping & handling (no tax)

Please send me more information about the Green Party of Pennsylvania

Please subscribe me to the Green Star for 1 year at _____ (\$25 suggested donation) I prefer to receive Green Star in hardcopy electronic format

Donation Tips & Instructions

- Make checks or money orders payable to the Green Party of Pennsylvania
- Please include all contact information
- If your donation is over \$200, state law requires us to also have your employer's contact information
- Individuals may only donate \$2000 in a given year
- Donations are not tax-deductible
- CD orders will have the cost of the quantity, plus \$3 for shipping & handling deducted from their donation
- Mail form to:

Green Party of Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 11962
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

Local Organizing and Events

(cont'd from page 2)

GPOP: Green Party of Philadelphia has attended city budget forums and has been working with the Coalition for Essential Services to demand that Mayor Nutter's budget restore funding cuts to programs such as libraries and health centers and instead modestly raise taxes in a progressive way. www.gpop.org

DELCO: Delaware County Green Party is having an event on public transportation in Delaware County, May 17 at 1:30 at Peace Center of Delaware County.

Cumberland Co. Green Party meets 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6 or 7pm (varies) at the Good Life Café, 26 N. Hanover St, Carlisle. CCGP usually shows a brief film or hosts a speaker on a Green topic. www.cumberlandgreens.org

Allegheny County GP meets first Thursday of every month at 7 pm at Citizen Power, 2121 Murray Ave., 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh (Squirrel Hill) www.gpoac.org

Lycoming County Green Party will be tabling at the Lewisburg Arts Festival in Union County, April 25.

Other events may be posted to the www.gpofpa.org website calendar.

News from the Steering Committee

The minutes of the weekly GPPA Steering Committee conference calls are posted periodically to the www.gpofpa.org website where they can be downloaded by any GPPA delegate. If you are a delegate and don't have an account on that website, please contact Chuck Steel (webmaster@gpofpa.org) for one. Here is a brief summary of what the GPPA Steering Committee has been working on the past several weeks:

- Along with PABAC and other minor parties, we have been lobbying PA Senators, particularly those in the State Government Committee, to support the Voters' Choice Act (VCA), SB 252 (see page 1; contact info is available at <http://www.pasen.gov>).
- The Steering Committee has been contacting a number of Greens around the state (mostly Green Star subscribers) to touch base. If you are a Green Star subscriber, chances are we'll be calling you pretty soon.
- Steering Committee members are also visiting county Green Party meetings. Please let us know when you are meeting so we can plan on having someone drop by.
- We've been sending out press releases and following the developments on a number of Green issues, including the Marcellus Shale drilling, Jon Hanger's DEP confirmation hearings, the PA Supreme Court rehearing of the Romanelli case, etc. ✕

GPPA State Committee meetings for this year will be:

- Sunday, April 19, 2009 in Breezewood, at the Ramada Inn
- Sunday, July 12, 2009 in Berks Co, Shoemakersville
- Sunday, October 11, 2009 in Hazleton

www.gpofpa.org

Green Party of Pennsylvania

P.O. Box 11962

Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962



www.gpofpa.org

Paper and Planet



we're putting it all together at
greenlinepaper.com

recycled office papers, toner & ink, compostables,
tissue & towel, kitchen/restaurant, natural cleaners,
fair trade foods

Call 800-641-1117

for our national products brochure.

GreenLine Paper Company, Inc.

631 S. Pine Street, York, PA 17403



Cards By Bo
100% post-consumer
recycled paper
www.CardsByBo.com

BULK MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SWARTHMORE, PA
PERMIT NO. 3