

Government's Money Monopoly — The Stranglehold

As Dave Nolan pointed out to the editor, Government's control of the money is one of its most powerful tools of oppression. Yet many Libertarians walk around never suspecting that the green paper slips and metal slugs they always carry with them are sinister and secret weapons used to steal from them and enslave them.

The following article offers good evidence that we could throw the government out of the money business, and be vastly more free and more prosperous if we did so.

Private Money in Early Colorado

By William M. Rosenblum

What is money? My Funk and Wagnalls states that money is an "officially issued coin or paper currency that serves as a medium of exchange and a measure of value . . .", but in the secondary definition money is called "any substance or object used similarly, as checks, money orders, wampum, etc." Notice that this definition has two major differences with the first. It does not use that obnoxious term, "officially issued" and it does not limit money to any specific substance. Coin collectors, or numismatists — to be fancy, state it very simply, money is a medium of exchange. If the two parties involved agree that six large stones are sufficient payment for three hours of work, then six large stones is money.

Throughout history mankind has used various objects, including stones, beads, shells, coins, paper and linen currency as money. We will leave the topic of what money is made out of for another time, but we will talk about who makes money now. Even many Libertarians have been so brainwashed for so many years that only government has made money in the past, that many Libertarians and other so-called free market thinkers believe that this is one of the last areas that government should relinquish. We know that the coining of money (and of course the printing of money, also) is one of the major reasons for the government's stranglehold on our economy and our freedom, but the fact is that there have

gold, although Colorado gold was among the most "pure" of all known gold, there can be little doubt that there were no shortage of crooks who would have liked nothing better than to pass off less pure gold if they could get away with it.

The first solution to this problem was the establishment of gold brokers or exchange agents who would buy gold dust for \$12 to \$16 per ounce (the going price was closer to \$20) in exchange for bank drafts or U.S. gold coins. Although at various times the brokers or agents would seem to be able to make a great deal of money on these transactions — one of the main reasons for this was that the U.S. government was issuing massive quantities of greenbacks and this raised the ratio of greenbacks to gold — the other risks involved, including insurance, transportation, the length of time involved in sending the gold to the Philadelphia mint,

and possible impurities in the gold, made this kind of operation very risky at best. A need for a local minting operation became imperative — and if the feds were not going to do it, than a private one would evolve.

The first, and no doubt most successful, Colorado private mint was Clark, Gruber and Company. They were at first only a banking firm (and in fact after ceasing its minting operation it evolved into the First National Bank of Denver) and like most bankers they were extremely conservative. After a thorough study they were satisfied that there was no law against any individual coining money, provided it was full weight. (Thus only a law against fraud.)

Clark, Gruber and Co. in downtown Denver started minting coins in the summer of 1860. By the fall of that year, Clark, Gruber "Pikes Peak Gold" was the principal money of the territory. Their coins were ac-

tually much higher in gold content than the U.S. gold coins, but were in reality "too pure" as they did not have enough alloy in them and were too soft. The next year more alloy was used, but the coins were still purer than the government's own coins. The coins contained 1% more gold than was necessary in anticipation of any loss due to wear, an "absolute guarantee" as Clark, Gruber called it. By 1862 Clark, Gruber issued very few gold coins and began issuing instead gold bars, which were stamped with the firm name, the value in ounces and its cash value. These bars, like the coins, were accepted world wide. It was at about this same time that the U.S. government started issuing paper currency. Clark, Gruber did the same, as it was no doubt troublesome for some to carry the weight of gold coins in their pockets. However the

(Continued on Page 6)

Steamboat Libertarians Complete Principles of Liberty Study

By Bob Jahelka

June 15 was the final session for a group of 8 Routt Libertarians meeting each week at the home of Bob Jahelka to analyze the 37 position papers which are the foundation of the Libertarian Party. The idea for the study program began when Les Gibson and Bob Jahelka invited Paul Grant, Libertarian candidate for Governor of Colorado, to visit Steamboat for a couple of days meeting with a variety of local groups describing Libertarian principles. Following Paul Grant's visit they recognized a need for a

greater depth of knowledge and understanding and the study program was on its way.

Course materials were ordered from the Society for Individual Liberty, announcements were printed and mailed to prospective students, and press releases were distributed to the media, but the best results in getting committed students was personal contact.

Student interest was strong; when being absent couldn't be avoided students made arrangements for taping the student discus-

sions. Two off shoots for future classes resulted from this group; one in the Oak Creek area and another in Steamboat.

Nothing's perfect, so there were some criticisms, mostly on the clarity of some discussion questions contained in course material and suggestions for improvement are to be sent to SIL.

Formation of a Routt Libertarian Club is the next step and aid for this project will be sought from the Colorado Libertarian Party. Anyone in the Routt area wishing information on the club may call 879-4127.

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one of the major reasons for the governments stranglehold on our economy and our freedom, but the fact is that there have been hundreds (probably more like thousands) of instances of privately issued money in both this country and throughout the world. Sometimes these private monies have competed with government monies, while at other times private money was used because there was little or no "official government" money available and an enterprising individual (or individuals) found a need and filled it.

Even many Libertarians have been so brainwashed for so many years that only government has made money in the past, that many Libertarians and other so-called free market thinkers believe that this is one of the last areas that government should relinquish.

This article on the use of private money in years past will help rid us of the notion that money has to be produced by government. First, a look at privately issued Colorado gold coins. The success of Colorado gold coins, both financially for the private mints and also because the coins were readily accepted by the populace, was very likely the most direct cause of the passage of a bill in 1864 that forbid the minting of private coinage in the United States.

Although gold was discovered in Ralston Creek in 1852 it wasn't until the late 1850's that the Colorado gold rush began in earnest. Ironically one of the first settlements in Colorado was at the junction of the South Platte and Cherry Creek and was called Auraria, in honor of William Russell, one of the first pioneers of early "white" Colorado. Russell was from Auraria, Georgia and that town took its name from the Latin word aurum, which means gold. At that time there was little or no "coinage" in Colorado and most trade was either by barter or through the use of gold dust. A pinch of gold dust was worth about 25¢, but this was obviously a very inaccurate method and depended greatly on how big ones thumb and forefinger were. It also was a problem because of the variance in purity of

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WHO IS MICHAEL EMERLING?

Libertarian activist.
Libertarian writer.
Libertarian motivator.
All these terms describe Michael Emerling.

Michael possesses a truly awesome amount of political knowledge and experience, gained from involvement in 52 campaigns as candidate, campaign manager and political consultant.

He founded the Tucson Libertarian Supper Club, worked with the MacBride for President campaign, and served as advisor to 12 Libertarian campaigns in Arizona, Nevada and California.



When he ran as Libertarian candidate for Congress against Arizona's Morris Udall, Michael received 5,000 votes on a bare-bones budget of \$1,000.

As speechwriter and ghostwriter for 52 political candidates, Michael has written 109 articles and speeches. His provocative essays in libertarian movement publications ("How to Get Converts Left and Right" in *Reason* and "The Late Great, Libertarian Macho Flash" and "The Militant Mentality" in *Frontlines*) have stirred a storm of controversy and become underground best-sellers.

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- How to apply libertarian principles to social and economic issues.
- A libertarian future.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON:
Techniques of Political Persuasion**

- The parable of the hammer.
- The freedom store.
- The semantics of persuasion: "Words are weapons, words are tools."
- Marketing liberty.
- Political cross-dressing.
- Intellectual judo.
- The enlightened zen master.
- Five unconventional tactics.
- Attitude, emotions, and sense of life: The unspoken argument.

- Identifying and creating issues.
- Learning the political terrain: petitioning, initiative, lobbying, and other laws and rules affecting political activism.
- Getting media coverage: How to give a great media interview.
- Grass-roots organizing and recruiting for liberty.
- Guerrilla politics: political leverage for small groups.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON:
Public Speaking**

- How to give an off the cuff talk when you're totally unprepared, mentally blank, and scared out of your socks.
- How to brainstorm, research, outline, and write a speech.
- Becoming a dynamite speaker: move over, Patrick Henry!
- Working with your audience: turning your listeners into allies.
- The verbal martial arts: How to handle hecklers and hostile audiences.
- Giving apathetic audiences a hit of adrenalin.
- Life and liberty, not death and taxes: the gospel of liberty.
- *And much more!*

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

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Paul Wakfer, former chair, Libertarian Party of Canada

The marathon sharpened my persuasive skills. It made me more confident that libertarian ideas and politics are valuable.

Ed Clark, 1980 Libertarian Party presidential candidate

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The Fine Art of Petitioning

By Patrick L. Lilly

Petition drives are an integral part of most Libertarian campaigns. Presented here are ways to maximize your personal effectiveness as a petitioner, and minimize any psychological damage. Virtually anybody can be a good petitioner, once he or she has a good understanding of the short interaction with a potential signer.

General Principles.

It's important to believe in what you're doing. Not only will dedication get you over your initial reluctance to go out and ask for signatures, it serves just as well to get you through the predictable doldrums and low spots. Petitioning is a *necessary* and *unavoidable* part of any long-term plan to transform human society into something freer and more humane. When you've gotten two "no's" in a row and you feel like quitting, think for a minute how miserable the world is likely to be twenty years from now if the petitioning *doesn't* get done. You'll usually decide to go back to work.

Petitioning is, in many ways, a highly *personal* activity. To have the kind of personal interaction you want with those people you approach, you should look, sound, act, and, in general, be, *positive*. Sound happy and enthusiastic. Be assertive in the way you display your petition. There's no dress code, but it helps immensely to be clean. Most importantly, SMILE a lot. What you're doing is *great*; let it show in your face.

Brevity and straightforwardness are two of your greatest assets. When you approach a potential signer, get right to the point and explain what you want him or her to do in the simplest, most direct way you can think of. Don't waste that person's time — *or yours* — with long-winded introductions, historical trivia about the Party, explanations of issues, or anything else. Most people will talk to you long enough to get a signature.

Governments Money Monopoly

(Continued from Page 5)

privately issued "greenbacks" differed greatly from their "officially issued" cousins because they were always redeemed at face value and they did not fluctuate as government paper did. They were in actuality gold notes. In matter of fact these privately

They are highly resistant, however, to a long or detailed interchange with a total stranger. Let them know right away that it's going to be short and simple.

Specific Points to Remember.

From the moment you begin speaking, look the person *right in the eye*. Eye contact is essential both to securing the person's attention and to encouraging him or her to do what you are asking — sign the petition.

The very first thing to do with each potential signer is to *qualify* him or her by finding out if he/she is registered to vote in the appropriate district. This is easiest for Presidential, Senatorial, and Gubernatorial candidates; you simply ask the person if he/she is registered to vote in the state. In races for State Representative it is more difficult, but a good rule of thumb is this: Even if you have to break your qualification remarks into two separate questions or sentences, always find out about the district as soon as you have determined that the person is registered to vote. And always ask about voter registration *first*.

To those who are qualified to sign, your next words should be a description of the petition you are carrying, and a request for the person to sign. As stated earlier, get right to the point. Keep your description general, and avoid using words or phrases whose meanings are likely to be unclear. For instance, in Colorado LP candidates are technically and legally "Independent". It will probably communicate more to use this adjective to describe your candidate than "Libertarian". Both are true, but one is more meaningful to the average person. Tell the person that the petition is to place a candidate on the general election ballot, not about the candidate's philosophy.

Many times, the immediate answer to a simple, straightforward request to sign a petition will be a simple, straightforward assent or refusal, either of which should be accepted without hesitation. Sometimes

(Continued on Page 8)

John Williams

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It also includes membership in the National Libertarian Party, with a subscription to the *L.P. News*, if pledge below is signed.

(I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the use of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.) _____

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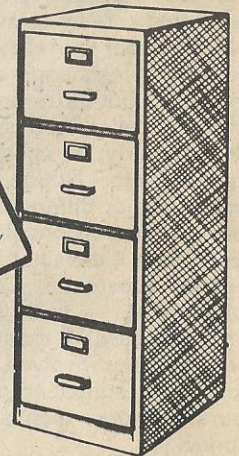
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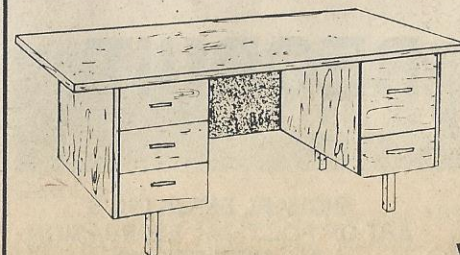


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value and they did not fluctuate as government paper did. They were in actuality gold notes. In matter of fact these privately issued notes were actually passing at a premium over U.S. currency, because they were backed by gold and government paper was much depreciated (because they were printing so many). The U.S. notes were *not* convertible into gold, and were not payable for many "official" debts.

It was at about this same time (1861) that the first Colorado Territorial Administration was formed and they immediately began to discuss the "necessity of a government mint". Clark, Gruber and Company was actually one of the strong supporters of this plan and actively lobbied Congress for a law banning private mints — which was passed in 1864. The reasons for this are uncertain, although one must be aware that Clark, Gruber ended up selling their mint to the U.S. government, that the gold rush was beginning to slow down, and there were at least two other companies (JJ Conway and Parsons & Co.) who had begun minting operations in Colorado. So the motives of Clark, Gruber & Co., may not have been as altruistic as some would have us believe. It is a matter of record that after all the turmoil and the "necessity of a government mint" etc., that no coins were minted in Denver until 1906. But at least the government had no competition.

From about 1830 until the early 1860's over 30 private mints issued gold coins in South Carolina, Georgia, California, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado. Even the most statist history of these mints admit that perhaps only 2 or 3 of these mints had even the slightest hint of debasement to their coins. A great many of these coins had more gold in them than the "official" U.S. gold coins. The only coins that all agree were consistently debased and were rarely accepted outside their own region (except at a very large discount) was Mormon Gold, issued by the church run Mormon mint. Do you find that surprising?

All the private mints were started because of the refusal of the U.S. government to provide an adequate (and accepted) medium of exchange in frontier areas. When a need became apparent the void was filled by a private non-governmental mint and they filled this void at least as well as the government could do. It is only for us to ponder what the course of our economic history would have been in the past 100 plus years if the 1864 law banning the private minting of coins had not passed.

Materials to Produce the Photos on these Pages.

If you would like copies of these, or others, they are available from him at \$2.50 per 5x7 glossy. Call him at 973-8578.

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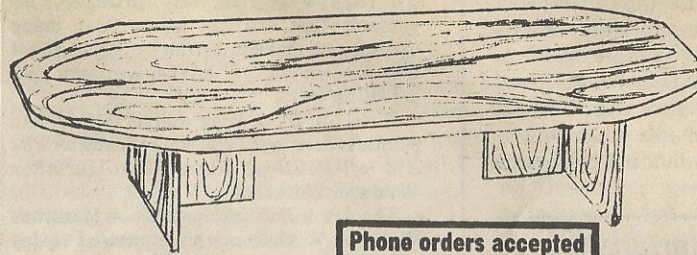
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Principles Of Liberty Course Offered

The fourth "Principles of Liberty" course offered by the Colorado Libertarian Party will begin on Tuesday, July 20, 1982. The course has been expanded from 8 to 10 weeks, as a result of suggestions and past experience. The first three sessions will be an introduction to libertarian philosophy, primarily oriented toward those who are not familiar with it. This will be followed by seven sessions in a discussion format, based on position papers published by the Society for Individual Liberty (SIL).

Classes will be held every Tuesday night, beginning at 7:30 at the CLP office, 1041 Cherokee St., Denver. The cost of the course is \$4.00, for a packet of 37 SIL position papers. There is no charge for participants choosing not to buy the packets.

For further information or to sign up for the course, contact Craig Green at 795-1629. A summary outline of the course is listed below:

- Week 1 Introduction
- 2 Self Ownership and Non Aggression
- 3 History of Libertarianism
- 4 Basic Issues of Liberty
- 5 Issues of Economic Freedom
- 6 Issues of Personal Liberty
- 7 Economic Issues and the Market Response
- 8 Foreign Affairs and Freedom
- 9 Individualism in Our Age
- 10 Social Issues Today

Profile of a Libertarian: Len Jackson

By Bob Sheffield

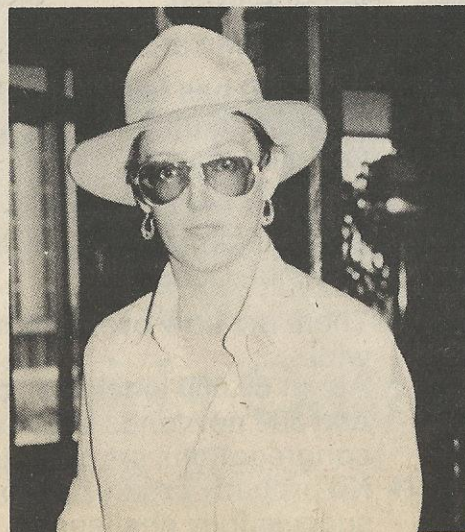
A white paper sculpture of a woman riding nude on a flying dragon hangs on Len and Charlie Jackson's livingroom wall. As I moved around it, and as the sun moved and changed the lighting on it, the shadows shifted, darkening and lightening, showing up different details and giving off different moods. For me, that sculpture best summarizes Len Jackson. It shows a free spirit daring to take on challenges. It shows variety in mood and appearance around a solid, unchanging base.

Knowing Len is like playing with a kaleidoscope. You don't know what you'll see next. She always has several things going at once. Her favorite past time, reading, is typical. At any time, she is in the process of reading several books. Other things she has going can include cooking, hot-tubbing, calligraphy (fancy lettering), or piano.

Having several things going at once sometimes results in something taking a while to get done. She is in her seventh year of college and is nine hours away from a bachelors degree in history. She is thinking of adding up to another year to get an honors degree which would help her get into the law school of her choice. Her ambition since she was thirteen years old has been to be a lawyer.

Len's interest in politics is deep-rooted.

teenager licking glue on envelopes and stamps. She dropped out of political activities at her first opportunity and stayed out for more than ten years. But when she went to a Clark for President fund-raiser she found something worth licking glue for. She filled out a volunteer card offering to do "anything" to help the effort. She's been busy with Libertarians ever since.



Len Jackson

After a few odd jobs for CLP and NLP, her first major act was to bring an Objectivist discussion group at the University of Colorado officially into Libertarianism. She did it

Libertarian Association, one of the authors of its charter, and one of its original three board members. She was a member of the CLP 1981 constitution and by-laws committee. She was a prime mover in establishing the CLP library. She was the district 2 representative last year on the CLP board of directors. She was the principal organizer in the group of BCLA members that put on the 1982 CLP convention in Boulder. She is the new CLP Membership Director. She may yet ride a flying dragon.

Len is concerned that while Libertarians are proud of being different, they still do things the way the Republicans and Democrats do. She believes we need more radical methods to go with our radical philosophies. One thing she suggests is that the CLP board could be organized like the BCLA; that is, the board members are those people who show up and do the work. Charlie is considering something like this for his campaign for Congress — little or no organization, just people doing what they want to do to help. These are clearly the ideas of a free spirit.

Cheek Wins Rib-Off

The 4th of July rib cooking contest, hosted by the Colorado Libertarian Party

and John Mason, his worthy competitors. Judging the hotly contested event were Pat Lilly, Suzanne Conlon, Ginger Tindall, Doug Nusbaum, and Ed Hoskins, who agreed, between mouthfuls, that all contestants' efforts were most tasty.

The approximately 60 freedom lovers who attended also enjoyed water skiing and sailing using boats provided by Gary and Jan Coen, as well as swimming, drinking and fireworks.

The picnic was set up with the help of Kurt and Pat Shortridge, Jan Prince, John Williams, Judy Huffman, and of course,

honors degree which would help her get into the law school of her choice. Her ambition since she was thirteen years old has been to be a lawyer.

Len's interest in politics is deep-rooted. Her stepmother is Lee Jones who was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives from 1977 to 1980. Len learned the mechanics of politics as a

After a few odd jobs for CLP and NLP, her first major act was to bring an Objectivist discussion group at the University of Colorado officially into Libertarianism. She did it by registering it, with the CU administration to conduct political activities on campus, as the CU Libertarians. Soon after that, she was one of the founders of the Boulder County

Rib-Off

The 4th of July rib cooking contest, hosted by the Colorado Libertarian Party and held at Hidden Lake in Thornton, was won by Richard Cheek, a former board member and Party regular. He defeated Burt Weiner (2nd place), Dick Eshelman (3rd),

and fireworks. The picnic was set up with the help of Kurt and Pat Shortridge, Jan Prince, John Williams, Judy Huffman, and of course, Ruth Bennett.

If you missed this highly successful event, watch the calendar and your mailbox, so you can make plans to get to the next one.

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—Dick Randolph

The income tax . . . is the root of the malignant tree of Big Government. Lay the axe to that root, abolish the income tax, repeal the 16th Amendment, and the tree of tyranny will wither and die. America will take a great leap to reclaim the ideal of liberty, of ultra-minimal government, on which this country was founded.”

—Murray N. Rothbard

“Joe Cobb presents compelling arguments why repeal of the 16th Amendment should be a central element — perhaps *the* central issue — of Libertarian campaigns in 1982 and 1984.”

—David F. Nolan

1st World Libertarian Convention "Libertas — Zurich '82" — August 24-29, 1982

The LIBERTARIAN INTERNATIONAL announces the 1st World Libertarian Convention, "LIBERTAS, Zurich '82", to be held at the International Hotel in Zurich, Switzerland, from August 24th to August 29th, 1982.

Featuring leading libertarian activists from all over the world, this convention will explore ways of spreading both economic and civil liberty round the globe, and will investigate ways of getting the message of freedom behind the Iron Curtain and into such countries as Poland, Russia, Cuba, and China to name a few.

The keynote address, to be given on Wednesday morning, August 25th, will be delivered by "Mr. U.S. Libertarian", DR. MURRAY N. ROTHBARD, author of several economic tomes on Austrian economics (the von Mises/Hayek school) and a 4 vol. history of the U.S., "Conceived in Liberty". Featured breakfast speakers are ANDRE SPIES of Belgium; ED CLARK, the 1980 U.S. Libertarian presidential candidate; BILL FORSTER, President of the Libertarian Party of Australia; and JOSE STELLE of Brazil. Seminar Leaders and Panelists from France, Belgium, Canada, Guatemala, Italy, Holland, and the U.S. round out a bill that features LEON LOUW, co-founder of the

Free Market Foundation of Southern Africa (Johannesburg) as a luncheon speaker.

The LIBERTARIAN INTERNATIONAL was founded by Vince Miller of Toronto, Canada in the summer of 1980 at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Miller is the current Chairman.

The 37 member Advisory Board, a roster of "Who's Who in Libertarianism", includes the 3 U.S. Libertarian presidential candidates in 1972, 1976 and 1980 elections, (John Hospers, Roger MacBride, and Ed Clark), together with Karl Hess, author of "Dear America" and "The Death of Politics", and Dr. Thomas Szasz, author of "The Myth of Mental Illness".

Paris' Institut de l'Enterprise is represented by Henri Lepage, author of the current best seller, "Tomorrow Capitalism"; Brussels' European Institute, by Michael van Notten; and Rome's Movimento Libertario, by Riccardo La Conca.

The LIBERTARIAN INTERNATIONAL has activist members in 22 countries on five continents. 39 U.S. states and 5 Canadian provinces are represented. Its newsletter CHRONICLE is published monthly in 3 languages, as is its Quarterly Digest, FREE WORLD: English, French, and Spanish. The

quires extra effort. Couples are often worth the extra effort, though, because they often pay off with two signatures. Carrying more than one clipboard (and more than one pen) can help you take the greatest advantage of this.

Large numbers of signatures per hour or per day come mostly from asking *everybody* you see to sign the petition. Whether they walk past you or you go to them, try not to miss anyone with whom your traffic pattern brings you into contact. Remember, ask each one if he/she is registered to vote in your district.

Locations.

Where does one petition? Anywhere reasonable numbers of people are on their feet. A busy sidewalk corner, whether on a downtown street or a college campus, is a place you can expect to get signatures. The entrances to large stores and shopping

next 3 languages being contemplated are German, Ukrainian, and Italian.

The 2nd World Libertarian Convention will be held in 1985 in one of the following locations: Hong Kong, Sydney, Australia; Johannesburg, South Africa; London, England; Mexico City, Mexico; Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil.

For further information, contact:

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824 W. Broad St.
RICHMOND, VA,
U.S.A. 23220 804-643-6304

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- The only tenet of the ULC is to **"do that which is right"** — with you determining what is right for you and your congregation.
- We've been around for over 20 years.
- The ULC has **federal tax exemption** obtained 7 years ago by federal ruling resulting from a California District Court decision.
- Those in the ULC gain all the **amazing tax benefits** granted to members of religious groups by the Internal Revenue Code.
- There are now over **10.5 million ULC ministers** world wide.
- About **60,000 local chartered congregations** now exist and 300 new ones begin each week — these congregations are tax exempt.
- **No** properly organized congregation has **ever** been successfully challenged.

We're growing at a phenomenal rate. Find out why!

Call for our next public meeting time or for more information.

ULC Denver

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ULC Headquarters

The Fine Art of Petitioning

(Continued from Page 6)

however, the response will be some kind of a question. This means the person is saying "Maybe." Give a straightforward, true answer. But make it a very general answer, and follow it up with a renewed request to sign the petition. Also, *only* answer questions if they are asked, and only answer one or two before you interrupt the process of question and answer with an obviously final request for the signature. Watch out for the people who will ask you questions as long as it takes to get one "wrong" answer, and then decline to sign the petition. The secret is to find out that a person is not going to sign — no matter what you say — just as soon as you can, and break off your interaction with that person, going onto a new one.

For this reason, it is vitally important

you can, and break off to interact with that person, going onto a new one.

For this reason, it is vitally important never to argue issues with anyone. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a dialectic where you are defending your candidate's political philosophy. You can't convince people who offer such questions to sign the petition anyway, so don't waste your time. Don't even look at your job as convincing anyone of anything. Rather, your job is to efficiently *sort* as many people as possible into two distinct groups: Those who will and those who won't.

When talking to that person, speak slowly enough and clearly enough to be fully understood. Remember that you are talking about things which are not part of the everyday world. Don't add to this problem by rushing your words all together, trying to get it all out too fast. Slowing yourself down will also help the person feel relaxed and in a friendly environment.

Be flexible in your approach to different individuals. Although certain types are easy to identify after a while, they are really all individuals. If a person jumps or starts when first spoken to, you can afford to back off a few inches and lower your voice.

Avoid groups of three or more, as a general rule. Getting and holding the attention of a solitary walker is easier than any group; even approaching two people re-

fect. A busy sidewalk corner, whether on a downtown street or a college campus, is a place you can expect to get signatures. The entrances to large stores and shopping malls are excellent places, if you can secure the necessary permission. (Occasionally you will get lucky and find a store which fronts on a sidewalk: no permission needed.)

Lines of people waiting to see a movie or performance of some other kind are good places; the people are just waiting, killing time. Performances and events where people do not line up, but drift in over a period of time, are also good, perhaps even better in terms of percentage of coverage of the crowd. General gathering places such as public parks on warm afternoons are always available.

(One note about stores and similar places: Get people either exclusively going in or exclusively coming out. It's less confusing and less embarrassing.)

This year, people are more amenable to signing your petition than ever before. And Colorado is a relatively easy state in which to conduct a successful petition drive and put a candidate on the ballot. The only danger is that you'll ultimately find yourself unconsciously checking to see if you've got your clipboard with you as you approach people, and eyeing every assemblage of more than two people as a place to use that clipboard.



Meanwhile, back at the office, Jan Prince heroically tries to keep the whole effort moving forward. She also will be keeping the office and Library open from 10 to 3 on Saturday.

Call for our next public meeting time or for more information.

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