

San Mateo Libertarian

Volume VI, Number 7 Editor: Christopher VA Schmidt July 1996

Meeting Notes Rich Acuff

June marked the official end of the "Each One Reach One" campaign, but don't hesitate to send in a form at any time if you get an inspiration.

Our enthusiastic evangelist Mike Moloney continues to rack up public speaking engagements. Last month he addressed several groups including Kiwanis in San Mateo, two more Burlingame High School classes, and a "coffee klatch" where his presentation caused at least one fellow to have an epiphany-deciding to join the party that day! Mike is planning to conduct a voter registration drive with a mobile setup. -Contact him or any officer if you're interested in helping.



Mike Moloney speaks to Kiwanis

Our *next meeting* will be Wednesday July 17, at the office of Amy Guthrie, D.D.S., in Palo Alto, from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. (See the map on the back page.) *Hey, it's air-conditioned!*

Editor's Notes

There's good news and bad news on the initiatives we circulated.

The bad news is that the initiative circulated by the Voters' Approval Committee and the LPSM, which sought to amend the County Charter to require voter approval of capital projects exceeding \$3 million, failed to receive enough signatures to be placed on the ballot.

The good news is that 3 state-wide propositions circulated by libertarians of various stripes did get enough signatures to appear on the November ballot. They were the "Medical Use of Marijuana" initiative, the "Right to Vote on Taxes" initiative, and the "California Civil Rights Initiative".

C-SPAN Covers LP Convention in DC J.Famularo

Live coverage will air (all times Eastern):

- *Thursday* (July 4), from 9:30 to 5:00. Speakers and Platform debate
- *Friday* (July 5), from 4:00 to 5:30. Speakers, panels, and presidential debate.
- *Saturday* (July 6), from 9:30 to 3:00. Nomination of presidential candidate. The Presidential candidate's acceptance speech will be televised live on Saturday, July 6, at 4pm Eastern time; *1pm Pacific*.

These times are subject to change; C-SPAN may decide to cover additional convention events. Also, expect to see LP guests before the convention on C-SPAN's Washington Journal program, and after the convention on viewer call-in shows. Plus, *C-SPAN usually repeats broadcasts at a later date.*

C-SPAN schedules can be checked on their web site at <http://www.c-span.org/>

Municipal Gun Control Alert Johann Opitz

May 18, San Jose's City Council voted 6-5 directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance aimed at banning the sale of affordable handguns (presumably identical to the one just passed in the City of Oakland).

Councilwoman Charlotte Powers stated that the ABAC (Association of Bay Area Cities) was asking all San Francisco Bay Area cities to pass similar ordinances.

Councilwoman Margie Fernandes stated that the objective was to have all 21 cities in the east side of the San Francisco Bay to do the same during the month of July (possibly the 4th of July week?).

While Councilman David Pandori is a supporter of some gun control measures, he noted that the ban does nothing to prohibit the ownership of these guns (e.g. -it doesn't stop anyone from bringing one in from outside the city) and that he doubts the ban on sales will

ever go into effect (i.e. -that the courts will find the ordinance violates the state's preemption law on the issue).

Council member Pat Dando, also a supporter of some gun control measures, opposed the directive on the grounds that the courts will probably find the ordinance violates the state's preemption law and, thus, this action becomes an unnecessary expense to the City (i.e. -to the taxpayers).

Frank Fiscalini advocated waiting, instead of taking any action now and most probably incurring lots of unnecessary expenses by the City, until the courts have acted on a similar ordinance in West Hollywood.

San Jose's Chief of Police, Lou Cobarruviaz, is clearly anti-RKBA and anti-self-defense and made himself clear that he considers all small caliber weapons to be "junk guns". While the Chief presented numerous statistics, he managed to provide one that destroyed his own arguments by pointing out that far more of the affordable guns were confiscated by the City's law enforcement officers than were sold within San Jose; thus showing the proposed ordinance will not stop the supply. (Just totally amazing how the gun-grabbers lack critical thinking skills!)

Mayor Susan Hammer insists the banning of the sale of affordable handguns is a product safety issue; yet the Oakland ordinance, which San Jose's will be based on, makes an exception for law enforcement officers. Obviously, Susan does not consider the safety and health of law enforcement personal to be as important as the safety and health of the every day citizen! These individuals clearly don't comprehend that some of the handguns to be included in the sales ban are the standard sidearms of tens of thousands of law enforcement officers across the nation.

The turnout by the pro-RKBA forces was very good (but it still could have been better). About 300 turned in cards to speak against the ordinance and only 30 in favor of the ordinance did so-the antis were overwhelmingly outnumbered. The pro-RKBA speakers included numerous very well-spoken women and minorities taking a strong stand that they should not be prevented from owning a handgun just because they can not afford a more expensive one and that they had just an equal right to self-defense as everyone else.

The officers of the Silicon Valley NRA Members' Council did a very fine job of preparing for the last night's City Council session and in keeping the pro-RKBA forces focused and in good order before, during, and after the entire session. My thanks and a big pat on the back goes out to all of them.

This article is abridged from the original posted by Johann Opitz (johannp@aimnet.com) on ba-firearms@lists.best.com.

Review: *Why Government Doesn't Work* C.Schmidt

Harry Browne, Libertarian presidential candidate, has written a "campaign book" you might purchase as a gift, but I bet you'll buy a second copy for your own library after you read it. -At least that's what I did!

The 245-page volume is an easy read. It's composed of 28 essays, between 3 and 17 pages in length, each of which can be read on its own. -But, taken together, they develop a compelling thesis for giving up on the incumbent parties and voting Libertarian.

The first 12 chapters (Part 1) chronicle and explain the growth of government: the good intentions; the programs that inevitably got larger, more expensive, and more coercive; and the ultimate failure of big government to achieve its stated goals-resulting in an increasingly discouraged and financially-squeezed populace. Whereas much libertarian literature treads this same ground and comes off well-whiny or bitter, Browne's essays are bright, concise, objective, and limit themselves to discussing specific problems inherent in big government and analyzing the dynamics that aggravate them.

I found Chapter 5 ("If You Were King") to be enlightening personally (as an environmentalist). Browne details a logical pitfall-common to reformers-which he calls the dictator syndrome. This can happen when a politician sees a problem and tries to solve it with a government program. He may know full well that most government programs don't work, but he will sponsor a government program to address a particular problem anyway because he believes that the solution is obvious and that if you give an agency enough money and enough power, it will solve an obvious problem in the obvious way. Viz: "Government could solve problem X if it were given dictatorial power." The problem, of course, is that another agency-given plenty of money and power to solve a different problem-will yield an effect opposite to that of the first program. Environmental programs make cars more fuel-efficient and less safe. Safety programs make cars more safe and less fuel-efficient. It can't win and government ends up impeding free-market solutions to the same problems. The incumbent parties cannot avoid this pitfall because, one way or another, they seek to solve all problems-be they economic or social-with more government.

The next 15 chapters (Part 2) show ways that free people with free markets can solve various problems better than government can and conclude by outlining one scenario for moving from big government to limited government, e.g. by privatizing social security.

One of the observations in Part 2 is that for cutting government to achieve the positive effects desired, the cuts must be big-like 20% per year-big enough that people actually keep enough of the money they earn to make significant choices when it comes to their health care, education, old age, family commitments, and charity. If government were scaled back to one-tenth its present size, after-tax income would nearly double-permitting almost unprecedented opportunity for people to choose their own destinies and lifestyles: living the "good life", working half-time, raising one's own children, or volunteering to solve the problems big government has failed at.

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If you're looking for an election-year outreach tool for introducing your friends, family, co-workers, or neighborhood talk-show host (or newspaper editor) to the Libertarian alternative to big government, you should consider giving a copy of *Why Government Doesn't Work*. Many voters need a "real person" with "real proposals" to vote for-not just a "theoretical philosophy". Harry Browne just may be the first Libertarian candidate they vote for and this book is a great introduction to his proposals and the reasons for them.

More about Harry Browne and about the book (including other reviews) can be found on his web site at <http://www.harrybrowne96.org/>

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Excerpt from Chapter 26 ("Neither of the Two Old Parties Will Save Us"):

The Republican Plan for Bigger Government
(billions of dollars)

Year	Budget Size	Growth	Deficit
1995	\$ 1539	+ 5.3%	\$ 183.7
1996	1588	+ 3.2%	170.3
1997	1627	+ 2.5%	152.2
1998	1661	+ 2.1%	115.8
1999	1718	+ 3.4%	100.4
2000	1778	+ 3.5%	80.8
2001	1822	+ 2.4%	33.1
2002	1876	+ 3.0%	- 6.4

... "Meanwhile, the Republican Presidential candidates-recognizing that voters want less government-are touring the country, playing to the crowds. They rant and rave that "government is too big and too oppressive," that "taxes take too much from the American family," that "we must get back to the Constitution."

But these are just words.

Who is your favorite Republican candidate? [...] If your candidate is a U.S. Senator, he already has made the decision to put off cutting government for seven years. In June 1995, he-along with every other Republican Senator-voted for the balanced budget resolution.

The plan calls for the government to grow by an average of 3.0% every year for the next seven years-taking the budget close to \$2 trillion. Further, the plan adds \$646 billion more in federal debt. That's \$646 billion, plus interest, for your children and grandchildren to pay in extra taxes.

Libertarians Dine in Sunnyvale S.C.Libertarian

The Mid County Discussion Group of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County meets July 10, August 14, and September 11 (second Wednesday); 7:00-9:30pm.

These meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarianism or who is interested in libertarian ideas. They're held at Coco's Restaurant, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, one block south of 101) in Sunnyvale.