

Editor's Notes

I've spent more time this month responding to public interest group candidate surveys, so I'm filling this issue with press release material.

One of the groups (Alliance for Children of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties) will distribute copies to over 300,000 households. Another (the Smart Voter project) estimates that over 10% of the electorate will read their pages on the web before voting. This group allows candidate responses to include links to other web pages (like the Advocates for Self-Government's Quiz On-Line), so I am optimistic that these efforts are worthwhile and represent important steps towards a "marketplace of ideas" where we have the advantage over the bigger parties, who dominate the expensive arenas of sound bite TV and direct-mail advertising.

I watched portions of the Natural Law, Reform, Republican, and Democrat party conventions on C-SPAN, the last three of which could have all been produced by the same person-a person certain that voters have an attention span no longer than 5 minutes. 15-minute episodes of Beavis & Butthead develop more complex themes. All in all, I think the insults to the voter's intelligence should work to our advantage.

Many of the speakers scored unintentional points for our side:

The mayor of Philadelphia lauded President Clinton for "creating over 100 enterprise zones nationwide to spur economic development in depressed areas." Well, if enterprise zones (areas exempted from certain regulations and taxes) are a good idea, why is Clinton opposed to less regulation and lower taxes for everyone?! The Republicans committed a similar gaffe, congratulating themselves on food stamp reforms-permitted by special exemption only in Texas.

Democrat congresswoman McKinney (GA) waxed on about how she despised a party that wouldn't tolerate having the word 'tolerance' in their platform (referring to the wording of the Republican platform anti-abortion plank). She was followed by other speakers who told us that we should support Clinton because of his 'zero-tolerance' anti-drug and anti-gun stands.

Former president Ford, in his Dole nomination speech, quoted Barry Goldwater: "A government that is powerful enough to give you everything you want is powerful enough to take it all away." Dole accepted the nomination (of course), and told us that he was going to give us everything we want.

Our *next meeting* will be Wednesday September 18, 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.)

On Clinton Tax Credits Harry Browne

In his speech, Clinton also proposed six new tax credits to help Americans pay for college, buy a home, and pay for child care.

"Why this flurry of tax credits?" asked Browne. "Because Clinton is admitting that Americans pay so much in taxes that they can't afford college, a home, or child care. The price we pay for all his favorite government programs is poverty."

-from Browne's August 30 press release

Government is not our Family Harry Browne

Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne responds, after listening to actor Christopher Reeve speak at the Democratic National Convention:

"I respect Mr. Reeve as an actor and as a man who has struggled against great odds to overcome a tragic accident," said Browne. "But when it comes to public policy pronouncements, Mr. Reeve is not only wrong-he's profoundly wrong."

Browne said he objected to Reeve's use of the "family" metaphor as an excuse to demand more government spending.

"It's a tragically flawed comparison," said Browne, "because it doesn't acknowledge the fundamental differences between a family and government. To put it simply, a family is love; government is force."

"A family is a group of people bound together voluntarily by ties of love and respect; government is bureaucrats using force to demand your obedience. To compare one to the other insults the very idea of family."

In his speech, the actor said that America was a "family"-and "we've got to take care of our family" by spending more tax money on medical research and by enforcing the Americans With Disabilities Act.

"Predictably, Mr. Reeve wants to gloss over the coercion that hides behind every government action," said Browne. "But coercion is what makes government the opposite of a family."



"For example, a family does not send IRS agents to seize the income of another family member to fund favorite social programs.

"A family does not fine, arrest, or imprison a family member if he doesn't spend tens of thousands of dollars to make a staircase 'wheelchair friendly.'

"A family doesn't spend the future earnings of their children and grandchildren and burden them with a \$5 trillion debt.

"But government has done all those things-and will continue to do them as long as people reflexively turn to government to solve every problem," said Browne.

"If Mr. Reeve really thought that America was a family, he would have used his eloquence to ask for voluntary contributions to the hundreds of non-profit, charitable, and scientific groups who are working to unlock the medical mysteries of disease and disability, and struggling to make life better for handicapped Americans. That would have shown a real understanding of what a family is."

Harry Browne for President <http://www.HarryBrowne96.org> (202) 333-0008

Libertarian ballot arguments Ted Brown

The Secretary of State has accepted three Libertarian ballot arguments for inclusion in the November ballot pamphlet. This will be like free advertising to 13 million registered voters.

The measures are:

- Prop. 204 - \$995 million water bond. Argument against signed by Gail Lightfoot, Ted Brown and Dennis Schlumpf (elected director of Tahoe City Public Utility District)
- Prop. 205 - \$700 million county jail bond. Argument against signed by Gail Lightfoot, Ted Brown and Douglas Webb (criminal defense attorney and LP candidate, 74th AD)
- Prop. 206 - \$400 million Cal-Vet home loans. Argument against signed by Ted Brown, Joe Miller (ret. AF officer) and Willard Michlin (real estate broker)

[Ted Brown](#) serves on the LP of California's executive committee.

War on Teenage Smoking (press release)

"President Clinton needs to conquer his addiction to government-imposed solutions," said presidential candidate Harry Browne [press release, August 23], criticizing the new proposals to reduce teenage smoking as "big-government, moral grandstanding" by the president.

"Americans don't need more meddling federal bureaucrats to tell us how to live our lives-or how to properly raise our children."

The executive order that Clinton has promised to sign would give vast new powers to the FDA to regulate tobacco sales and advertising, allegedly to reduce cigarette sales to minors.

"Politicians continue to play a gigantic game of 'let's pretend,'" said Browne. "Let's pretend that the War on Poverty really did help poor people; let's pretend that the War on Drugs really did reduce drug abuse and crime; let's pretend that new laws against teenage smoking will really do what Clinton says they will, so that we need argue only over what the details should be."

[...] "Clinton doesn't seem to understand that he was elected president, not parent-in-chief."

The proposals also show Clinton's propensity to reflexively turn to the government to solve every problem.

"While Clinton forces cigarette companies to spend money on an anti-smoking campaign, the free market is already moving to accomplish the same goal," said Browne. "Now that the FDA has relaxed its restrictions on nicotine gum and nicotine patches, private companies are gearing up a \$100 million anti-smoking campaign to sell their stop-smoking products. But Clinton always prefers a coercive government mandate over a free-market solution"

Stop The Browne Out: Update Stanley Shaw

WOW What a great week!

The date is set for the presentation of the petitions: September 13 in DC.

Signature totals break the 10,000 mark! [editor's note: I think this is the number Perot submitted prior to his inclusion in the 1992 debates]

LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM! LETS HIT 30,000 by the 10th!!! It's simple! It's easy! Just print out a petition available at <http://www.twr.com/STBO> and ask people to sign. Friends, family, co-workers, absolute strangers...you name it! Anyone is a potential signer!

Alternatively, you can call the Presidential Debate Commission at (202) 872-1020 and ask that Harry Browne be included in the debates. The receptionist is friendly, and will only ask you for your name and city. It takes under a minute.

[Stanley Shaw](#)

Harry Browne: On Missile Attack on Iraq

"The missile attack on Iraq today is the latest bloody installment in the U.S. government's military policy of "perpetual war for perpetual peace," charged Libertarian presidential contender Harry Browne.

"This missile attack on Iraq is another example of how government foreign policy doesn't work," said Browne. "Instead of defending America, our government is attacking nations that pose no military threat to us-and is making our country a more tempting target for murderous terrorists." [...]

"What was lacking in Clinton's statement was an explanation of how this attack makes America more secure Or an explanation of why we need 15,000 U.S. troops, 200 warplanes, and 20 ships in the Persian Gulf to defend America."

Unfortunately, said Browne, this kind of meddling in other nations' affairs is nothing new for the U.S. government.

"Since World War II, our government has shipped money, weapons, and soldiers to nearly a hundred nations," said Browne. "Instead of defending our country, the government has sent Americans to die in the jungles of Asia, the shanty towns of Somalia, and the desert sands of the Middle East. Instead of focusing on defense, the government has seized on minor incidents to jump into conflicts that didn't threaten America.

"And thus we are almost always at war-cold or hot, but a conflict nevertheless-a war in which Americans will die, or a war that Americans will be taxed for, or a war that could easily erupt into wholesale destruction," he said. "So we have what historian Charles Beard called the 'perpetual war for perpetual peace'-the nonstop conflict that's always justified by the peace just around the corner.

"But government doesn't work. War doesn't work. Every war leaves America and the world as insecure as they were before-with new enemies to face or with old enemies threatening to get even," said Browne. "This latest skirmish is no exception."

Take me to your Lizard Douglas Adams

"I come in peace," it said, adding after a long moment of further grinding, "Take me to your Lizard."

Ford Prefect, of course, had an explanation for this. "It comes from a very ancient democracy, you see...."

"You mean, it comes from a world of lizards?"

"No," said Ford, "nothing so simple. Nothing anything like so straightforward. On its world, the people are people. The leaders are lizards. The people hate the lizards and the lizards rule the people."

"Odd," said Arthur, "I thought you said it was a democracy."

"I did," said Ford. "It is."

"So," said Arthur, hoping he wasn't sounding ridiculously obtuse, "why don't the people get rid of the lizards?"

"It honestly doesn't occur to them," said Ford. "They've all got the vote, so they all pretty much assume that the government they've voted in more or less approximates to the government they want."

"You mean they actually vote for the lizards?"

"Oh, yes," said Ford with a shrug, "of course."

"But," said Arthur, going for the big one again, "why?"

"Because if they didn't vote for a lizard," said Ford, "the wrong lizard might get in."

from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Submitted by Glenn Peacock