

## From The Folks Who Brought You The Cypress Freeway Infrastructure... by Kate O'Brien

There is an absolutely horrendous Constitutional Amendment which will be on the [June 1998 ballot](#) (unless the Governor calls a special election beforehand). It was put there by the *Professional Engineers in California Government* (PECG - a state employees union), and is called (in a rare touch of irony) *The Government Cost Savings and Taxpayers Protection Amendment*.



Currently, in order to get projects built on time, safely, and under budget, various levels of government are allowed to contract with private firms on a competitive bases for public projects. The PECG amendment would change the formula by which project costs are determined, stacking the deck against private A/E firms, and for the State Bureaucracy.

The proposed new formula would: (1) Set the cost of using state employees at zero. It specifically prohibits factoring in salaries, benefits, office rental and other overhead costs. (2) Require those same costs to be factored into any estimate submitted by a private firm (the way those of use who like to eat usually do business anyway).

As a result, no private firm would ever win a government contract, because the state employees are treated as free labor.

Furthermore, there is nothing in this initiative about the State delivering projects on time, under budget, or safely. And this initiative specifically states that if a private firm did get a small part of the project, they would be required to insure the entire project for the State's negligence.

Even with all the stumbling blocks in our way now, private firms consistently outperform state government. For example the Santa Clara County Traffic Authority used private firms for its entire transportation project. These firms completed the job seven years faster than the time estimated for the State to do the job.

For more information, contact Taxpayers FEDUP With More State Bureaucracy at 415-340-0470 or the American Institute of Architects at 916-448-9082.

*Kate O'Brien is a civil engineer and Vice Chair of the LP of SM Co.*

## The 1% Solution by Steve Marsland

It was only a few months ago when I read the book *Why Government Doesn't Work* by Harry Browne that I realized that there was a political party which supported what I believe in. Basically, I had been a Libertarian all my life and didn't realize it. I want to express my thanks to all those loyal and dedicated Libertarians who kept the party going in the face of tremendous odds. I'm proud to have joined. I'm amazed by your perseverance and dedication. and I know that our philosophy holds the key to the future for our country and for freedom.

We have the ability to make a tremendous difference in America. to make this difference, we must work together. The framework, the basis for our teamwork, is the Libertarian Party. The party is the way we pool our talents and efforts; working toward a common goal. Without this teamwork, we're swimming upstream, against the tide, individually.

How can the Libertarian 1% of the population become the solution to our nation's problems? The key to our success lies in the strength of our convictions and our willingness to make a commitment for freedom. How many more people are there like I was, a Libertarian who never heard of the Libertarian Party? Millions. How do we reach them? How do we gain their allegiance, as the Libertarian Party gained mine? Individual effort is part of the solution, but only part of it. We must also have organized, professional communications to America.

This organized professional communication can happen only with the commitment of the Libertarian 1%. It can only come from your and my commitment. Our message can spread and our party can grow only if the faithful and committed few - you and I - start the process with a concrete pledge of financial support to the party. I have asked each of my Libertarian friends to join me in this pledge, and each of them has done so willingly, because their commitment to freedom is deep and strong. Will you join us in pledging \$10 a month to the Libertarian Party?

When you think of what our founding fathers gave for freedom - their entire fortunes, their sons, their own lives - \$10 a month seems little enough. Even my friends with few financial resources find that freedom is a high enough priority to spare \$10 a month. some of us who are better off have pledged more.

"What can \$10 a month do?" you might ask. If all 460,000 people (less than 1/4% of the people in our country) who voted for Harry Browne in November pledged \$10 a month, the Libertarian Party would be on a financial par with the Republican and Democratic parties, with \$50 million a year to spend on promoting the message of freedom. If each committed Libertarian backs his or her vote with a small financial commitment, our ultimate success is assured.

To pledge to the Libertarian Party of California please fill out the enclosed form located on the back page of this newsletter. Won't you

join me? Let's bring forward the day when we will regain our birthright - freedom in America.

Steve Marsland is author of *The History of the Japanese Labor Movement* and can be reached at: [SEMarsland@aol.com](mailto:SEMarsland@aol.com)

## Quotes & Notes

Libertarians are multiplying. According to two recent surveys, 24% to 30% of Americans hold solidly libertarian positions on the role of government - the highest number ever.

*from a Libertarian Party National Committee press release*

### Libertarians Must Address the Environment by Bernie Jackson

In the San Francisco Bay Area, stronghold of political correctness, the most common objection I hear to free market principles is, "what about the environment?" People seem to understand such basic economic principles as competition, supply, demand, and price, so they are somewhat amenable to the general arguments for economic freedom.



However, the average Bay Area resident thinks that business *inherently* destroys our planet. This means that in any discussion of libertarian principles, the environment - that last sacred cow of today's statist - will rear its ugly head and moo at the top of its lungs until it has droned us libertarians out.

To silence this terrible mooing, we must do two things: (1) prepare a simple formulation of free-market environmentalism, and (2) make it clear to our Bay Area friends that we do not treat the environment as a pesky afterthought.

Unfortunately, the environment usually does appear as an afterthought in any discussion of economic freedom. This happens because we tend to focus on economic quantities (price, product quality, employment, etc.). When our brains are in "economics" mode, we usually do not have "environment" on the tips of our tongues. I think this creates the impression that we libertarians care more about low prices than whether or not our "fragile" planet survives, and it encourages our Bay Area friends to write us off as greedy fools.

To make matters worse, it can be particularly difficult to explain the relationship between private property rights and a clean environment.

While the fundamentals of supply, demand, and competition are fairly commonly known, the notion that private property rights *improve* the environment is alien to the average person. In this area, we have to start from scratch with each new listener.

I have found that a good starting point is the following question: "If you needed to dump garbage on a regular basis, would you dump it in your own yard, your neighbor's yard, or some land that nobody owns?" Another good one is, "Have you ever washed a rental car? Why not?" Choose an engaging question that will encourage the environmentally correct to start thinking about private property, and read up on free market environmentalism so you can help your green friends puzzle through it.

By focusing on these concerns, we may yet make mincemeat of the statist's final sacred cow.

### March Meeting Notes by Christopher Schmidt

The meeting's big news was Mary's announcement of a new location - Prime Time Athletic Club in Burlingame. A cafeteria serving sandwiches, salads, and smoothies will make nosing and informal conversation possible, beginning at 6:30; followed by our monthly "business meeting" from 7:30 to 9:00 in the multi-purpose room. The receptionist can direct you to either location. ***For this month only, we will get together on a Monday, April 21 - instead of our regular day.***

Lacy Nelson reported on the San Mateo City Council meeting. He commented on the absurdity of the federal block grant process in which San Mateo citizens pay taxes to Washington; San Mateo city fathers beg slavishly for a cut of the booty; congratulate each other when they get some; and expect that we citizens be grateful for the largesse of Washington.

Mike told us that he had given a talk to Aragon High School seniors. He doesn't miss any opportunity to promote his upcoming run for congress!

Kelly S. mentioned that she speaks to a government economics class at Sequoia High School each semester. Kelly also described her experiences handing out literature on tax day in past years.

I talked about the June school bond referenda and the process for submitting arguments against. Four of us submitted an argument in Redwood City, but a random lot selected another argument, submitted by fellow traveller Jack Hickey. He is the author of previous ballot arguments; against sales and property tax measures. (Sometime LP of SM Chair Lyn Sapowski was a co-signer of the latter argument.) In each case, his argument prevailed. In other cities we were not so lucky. No argument was submitted against 4 of the 6 bonds this season. Please--raise your right hand and pledge that this will never happen again!

The next meeting of the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County will be Monday, April 21, at the ***Prime Time Athletic Club, at 1730 Rollins Road, Burlingame; between Broadway and Millbrae Avenues***, a few blocks north of the Broadway train station. Sandwiches/salads/smoothies 6:30-7:30; business meeting 7:30-9:00. Come for either or both!

## Free to Browse

For new and seasoned Web travelers alike, look below for a handfull of Libertarian - and some not so - web sites. Spaces in addresses are underscored.

The Cato Institute

<http://www.cato.org>

The War Emergency Powers Act

[http://www.alaska.net/~winter/war\\_emer\\_bk.html](http://www.alaska.net/~winter/war_emer_bk.html)

The Future of Freedom Foundation

<http://www.fff.org/freedom/info/fff.html>

Advocates for Self Government

<http://www.self-gov.org/index.html>

Critiques of Libertarianism

<http://world.std.com/~mhuben/libindex.html>

The Freedom Daily

<http://www.fff.org/freedom/daily/index.html>

Libertarian Web Site

<http://www.libertarian.com/>

Freedom Lawyers of America

<http://www.libertarian.com/shelly/floa.html>