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October 24, 2002

SENT VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Rosemary C. Smith
Acting Associate General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Re: **Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ("LNC") Request for Advisory Opinion**

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of October 3, 2002, that I received October 8, 2002.

You asked the following questions:

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COUNSEL
2002 OCT 25 P 2:36

- (1) Describe in detail how the list was developed. Your description should include, but not be limited to, the purchase of the list, the purchase of additional names, the development of new names by the LNC in the course of its campaign activities or through use of the list, and the development of new names through the exchange of lists.

Answer: The mailing list was developed in the course of the LNC's political activities, primarily from the following sources: (a) the names and addresses of members of the Libertarian Party and contributors to the LNC; (b) direct mail prospecting; (c) inquiries from persons interested in the Libertarian Party; (d) exchanges of lists with other organizations; and (e) names and addresses of interested persons provided by members of the Libertarian Party. Typically, in its direct mail prospecting activities, the LNC rents lists at fair market value in the market place, and when it receives a positive response to its direct mail solicitation, adds the name and address of the person responding to the LNC's list. Similarly, the LNC may exchange lists on a limited or one time basis with another organization, use the list for direct mail prospecting for new members for the Libertarian Party, and those who positively respond will be added to the LNC's mailing list. Generally, the LNC does not purchase or exchange more than a limited or one time use of a mailing list. Rather, a limited or one time use of another's list is made for the purpose of generating more names and addresses to add to the LNC list. Occasionally, the LNC will purchase the perpetual use of a voter registration list.

- (2) State whether the LNC has used this list primarily for leasing to others for non-campaign purposes to gain revenue, primarily for leasing to others for their campaign purposes, or primarily for its own campaign purposes (e.g., the distribution of campaign messages or the solicitation of contributions or donations that are not purchases). If one type of use is not substantially greater than the other, please explain generally the relative amounts of the use of the list.

Answer: The mailing list was developed primarily for use by the LNC for its own campaign purposes, and is primarily and substantially used for those purposes. Approximately once a month the LNC will rent or exchange a portion of the mailing list with another organization for non-campaign purposes. Approximately once every two months (more during election years), the LNC will rent or provide free or at a reduced rate a portion of the mailing list to a Libertarian Party candidate or ballot

initiative committee for political or campaign purposes. Approximately three times a month, the LNC or one of its affiliates will use the mailing list for Libertarian Party political or campaign purposes. For example, the LNC publishes *LP News* once a month, and uses the mailing list to send *LP News* to Libertarian Party members, and a relatively small number of persons who are subscribers, but not members.

- (3) State whether you also intend to ask about the sale by the LNC of its used furniture or the disposition of other used items.

Answer: No. This was intended merely as an example of an activity similar to those activities for which an advisory opinion was requested.

I note that many of the answers I made to your questions regarding the mailing list development and use are similar for the third area of business activity discussed in my original letter to you – licensing by the LNC, in arms length transactions, of Libertarian Party trademarks to t-shirt vendors and vendors of other campaign items. The trademarks were developed for the LNC's political campaign activities and are used primarily and substantially in those activities. The licensing activities are merely incidental to the uses for political purposes.

I also note, in reviewing the advisory opinions you sent to me with your letter dated October, 3, that one other item of information must be stressed in regard to the LNC's business activity of selling advertising in its monthly newspaper, *LP News*. Some of that advertising is sold to political committees, such as the campaign committees of Libertarian Party candidates seeking election to federal or non-federal office. The primary purpose of those advertisements is to solicit contributions and support, and educate readers on political issues. The second category of advertisements, are advertisements placed by non-profit or public policy organizations. The primary purpose of those advertisements is to publicize issues of particular importance to those organizations, and solicit contributions and/or memberships. The third category of advertising is advertisements placed by for-profit businesses, who wish to sell goods and services to readers of *LP News*. The first two categories of advertisers are engaged in core political speech, and thus to the extent you interpret the FECA, as amended, to prohibit such advertising, you are interpreting the FECA to prohibit core political speech, and you are directly restricting the ability of the LNC to promote core political speech.

Federal Election Commission
October 24, 2002
Page 4

Please contact me if you have any additional questions. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

William W. Hall

WWH/md
807844-1



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20463

October 3, 2002

**William W. Hall
Warner, Norcross & Judd
900 Fifth Third Center
111 Lyon Street, N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2487**

Dear Mr. Hall:

This refers to your letter dated September 20 2002, on behalf of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ("LNC"), concerning the application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to activities of the LNC that you characterize as "business," rather than "political," activities.

In particular, your concern pertains to the inability of the LNC, which is a national committee of a political party, to maintain a non-Federal account under 2 U.S.C. 441i(a) and 11 CFR 300.10. These sections will be effective on November 6, 2002, pursuant to the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 ("BCRA"). You describe several types of Libertarian Party sales or leases, made at arms-length and at fair market rates, whereby the LNC has received funds in the past and deposited those funds into its non-Federal accounts. LNC wishes to continue to engage in such transactions. Some or all of the receipts, if accepted by the Federal account, may be treated as contributions. Since the LNC will not be able to maintain a non-Federal account under BCRA, the issue arises as to whether these transactions may include payments from prohibited sources such as corporations, and whether such payments may exceed the Act's contribution limits.

The transactions you list are: (1) rental of the LNC's mailing list on a commercial arms-length basis; (2) sale of advertising space in the *Libertarian Party News* ("*LP News*"); and (3) licensing Libertarian party trademarks to t-shirt vendors and other manufacturers of campaign items. In making an argument that the Commission could not have intended that new section 300.10 would prohibit the LNC from receiving funds resulting from a sale of goods or services in an arms-length transaction, you also cite the example of an effort to upgrade the LNC's furniture and the consequent sale of its used furniture. You state that, if the Commission decides to allow a national committee to sell such used assets without a contribution resulting, such an allowance would not be different from the other transactions you describe.

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a). The regulations also explain that such a request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c). The Office of General Counsel shall determine if a request is incomplete or otherwise not qualified as an advisory opinion request. See 11 CFR 112.1(d).

In view of the above requirements, please respond to the following questions:

- (1) Describe in detail how the list was developed. Your description should include, but not be limited to, the purchase of a list, the purchase of additional names, the development of new names by the LNC in the course of its campaign activities or through use of the list, and the development of new names through the exchange of lists.
- (2) State whether the LNC has used this list primarily for leasing to others for non-campaign purposes to gain revenue, primarily for leasing to others for their campaign purposes, or primarily for its own campaign purposes (e.g., the distribution of campaign messages or the solicitation of contributions or donations that are not purchases). If one type of use is not substantially greater than the other, please explain generally the relative amounts of the use of the list.
- (3) State whether you also intend to ask about the sale by the LNC of its used furniture or the disposition of other used items.

For your information and guidance, this Office is enclosing advisory opinions pertaining to the sale of items by a political committee, including mailing lists and advertising space. They are Advisory Opinions 1992-40, 1992-24, 1990-3, 1988-12, 1986-14, and 1981-53.

Upon receipt of your responses, this Office will give further consideration to your request. If you have any questions about the advisory opinion process, the enclosed opinions, or this letter, please contact Jonathan Levin, a senior attorney in this office, at 202-694-1542.

Sincerely,


Rosemary C. Smith
Acting Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

AOs 1992-40, 1992-24, 1990-3, 1988-12, 1986-14, and 1981-53

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September 20, 2002

SENT VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Federal Election Commission
Office of General Counsel
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion Regarding Business (Not Political) Activities
of Libertarian National Committee, Inc., FEC Identification Number
C00255695

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the General Counsel of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc., the National Committee of the Libertarian Party® in the United States ("LNC"). I am writing this request for advisory opinion on its behalf.

Currently, and for many years, the LNC has engaged in a number of business activities, in addition to its political activities. These business activities include:

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OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
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1. The rental of its mailing list of members, contributors, and prospects, on a commercial, arms-length basis, either directly, or using the services of a commercial mailing list broker. The mailing list broker, Walter Karl, Inc., is a corporation. Typically, the mailing list broker locates organizations desiring to rent the LNC's mailing list, and enters into contracts with those organizations, some of which may be corporations, political committees or organizations qualified under 501(c) or 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, and those organizations pay a fee, at a current market rate for the industry, per name and address rented.
2. The LNC publishes a monthly newspaper, the *Libertarian Party® News* ("*LP News*"). The *LP News* has a substantial circulation, and as a consequence, Libertarian Party® candidates, and organizations both affiliated, and not affiliated with, the LNC, stand ready and willing to purchase advertising space in the *LP News*. Some of these organizations are corporations. Some are political committees, and some are organizations qualified under Section 501(c) or Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. The advertising is offered on an arms-length basis, as a business transaction at market advertising rates for publications with the circulation of the *LP News*. I have enclosed a representative issue of the *LP News*. As you can see, it includes advertisements for the sale of goods and services, political candidates, ballot initiatives and other causes.
3. The LNC owns the trademarks Libertarian Party® and Party of Principle®. In the past, the LNC has from time to time granted limited licenses to use those trademarks to t-shirt vendors and other manufacturers of campaign items, for a modest consideration. The LNC desires to continue and expand that program. Any license would be entered into on an arm-length basis, as a business transaction at market rates for such licenses.

In the past, the LNC deposited receipts from its mailing list rental, *LP News* advertising and trademark licensing activities in its nonfederal "soft money" account, and reported those receipts in accordance with FEC regulations regarding nonfederal accounts. However, effective November 6, 2002, the LNC will no longer be able to maintain a nonfederal account for that purpose, pursuant to regulations recently enacted by the FEC, 11 CFR Section 300.10.

However, the LNC finds it hard to believe that the FEC intends by its new regulation to prohibit the LNC from receiving funds that, in common parlance, are not

"contributions" or "donations", because they are received in return for goods and services provided, at typical and customary market rates.

For example, if the LNC were to upgrade its office furniture, and desire to sell its used furniture, how would it account for the receipt of the proceeds of the sale? Those proceeds will not be collected in accordance with the regulations for fundraising issued by the FEC. Assuming the FEC decides that it is possible for a national committee to dispose of used assets, how is this different from permitting a national committee to sell or lease goods and services at market rates?

The LNC proposes that it be permitted to continue to rent its mailing list, sell advertising in *LP News*, and license its trademarks as it has in the past. The LNC proposes that it would report its receipts from such activities as "Other Federal Receipts" on its FEC filings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this request for advisory opinion. Time is of the essence, as the new regulation takes effect November 6, 2002.

Very truly yours,



William W. Hall

**THE FOLLOWING SIX PAGES ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE OCTOBER 2001
ISSUE OF THE *LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS*. THE ENTIRE ISSUE, WHICH IS 36
PAGES LONG, WAS SUBMITTED WITH THE REQUESTER'S SEPTEMBER 20
LETTER.**



October 2001

The financial monthly Newsprint of the Libertarian Party Volume 18/Issue 10

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

LP Response to Terrorism

The following statement was issued by James W. Lark III, chairman of the Libertarian Party in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks

On behalf of the Libertarian Party, I wish to express our profound sorrow and grief for the tragic loss of life and suffering caused by Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Our hearts go out to the victims and their grieving families and friends. Nothing we say can ease the devastation and sense of loss they feel — and that every other American shares — but we stand with them in mourning the loss of friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, loved ones, and fellow citizens.

The Libertarian Party condemns the vicious and barbaric attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. There is no excuse for such savage acts. No legitimate political or religious ideology can justify the murder of thousands of innocent people.



By Jim Lark, National Chair

These actions, and the revulsion they cause to all decent people around the world, demonstrate in the starkest way possible that the initiation of force is never an appropriate way to settle political or social differences. The result of such violence is more hatred, more grieving relatives and friends, more tambores — and, ultimately, more violence.

Libertarians unequivocally reject the initiation of force as a solution to the disagreements between people and between governments.

The Libertarian Party calls for justice to be meted out to the terrorists responsible for the attacks. However, we encourage the United States government to be sure that any response is appropriate and measured. Action should not be taken that will cause innocent people in other countries to be killed because of the actions of terrorists. Such a response would only continue the cycle of violence and revenge.

The Libertarian Party calls on all Libertarians to aid our fellow Americans who have suffered from this horrible tragedy: Donate blood for the victims fighting for their lives in hospitals in New York and Washington, DC. Contribute to the charities that will assist the families and relatives. If you live near where the attacks took place, volunteer to assist in rescue or recovery efforts, as appropriate. And if you know any of the victims' families, offer solace and support in any way you can. Now is a time for all Libertarians to stand together to help those who are suffering.

The Libertarian Party calls on all Americans to act wisely. See **TERMINUS** Page 15

National Committee votes to approve strategic plan

On 15-1 vote, preliminary OK is given to ambitious agenda

By Jim Lark
LP News Editor

The Libertarian National Committee has given preliminary approval to a sweeping strategic plan that could chart the political course of the Libertarian Party for the next three years.

At the August 26-27 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, the LNC endorsed the strategic "blueprint" with a 15-1 vote.

The plan, the product of six months of work by the party's Strategic Planning Team, lays out six major goals and 20 strategies for the Libertarian Party over a one-, two-, and three-year time frame.

The strategic plan is intended to unite LP members behind a coherent set of strategies, and help the Libertarian Party become more of a significant force in American politics, said LP National Chair James W. Lark.

"My hope is that implementation of this strategic plan will help us improve our efforts to accomplish the [political] mission of the LP," he said.



LP National Chair James W. Lark (center) counts votes at the Libertarian National Committee meeting in Las Vegas, where the LNC voted to approve the party's strategic plan.

- The Strategic Plan calls for the party to focus on six major strategic goals:
 - Increase the number of Libertarians holding public office.
 - Strengthen Libertarian state and local organizations.
 - Increase the Libertarian Party's support base — members, volunteers, and activists.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Liberty's best websites

The Internet has become an essential part of our lives. It's a place where we can find information, connect with others, and even change the world. For Libertarians, the Internet is a powerful tool for spreading our message and building our community. Here are some of the best websites for Libertarians to visit and use.



compile a list of websites that every self-respecting Libertarian should have at their fingertips before blasting off into cyberspace.

What did it take to make it into the Top Ten list?

Of course, every website on the list has a distinct Libertarian orientation. That's a given. They also feature a broad range of content and at least one striking or

See **TERMINUS** Page 20

Libertarian Ballot Initiative to End the Massachusetts Income Tax

Biggest TAX REVOLT since the Boston Tea Party!

Biggest SPENDING CUT since the End of WWII!

Attorney General approves and certifies Libertarian Ballot Initiative to Abolish the Income Tax in Massachusetts.

Libertarian petitioners are already collecting thousands of signatures for this history-making Ballot Initiative.

A Libertarian Ballot Initiative to End the Income Tax in Massachusetts?

The *Boston Globe* is already writing about us. So is the *Boston Herald*. The *Salem Evening News* put the following question to their readers: "Abolish the income tax?" Dozens of letters to the editor weighed in on the issue.

This is just the beginning of our newspaper coverage. Who else will cover us soon? *USA Today*? *The Wall Street Journal*? *The Washington Post*? Or magazines like *Time*? *Newsweek*? *National Review*?

Will Carla Howell's recent TV appearance on The O'Reilly Factor be the first of many National TV appearances?

Will Carla Howell be invited to make our case on *Nightline* with Ted Koppel? *Face the Nation*? *Meet the Press*? *Hardball*? *Crossfire*? Politically incorrect?

Will John Stossel of ABC's 20/20 do a nationally televised story about our End the Income Tax Ballot Initiative?

Why not tax limitation?

Tax limitation got popular in the late 1970s in California.

Remember Proposition 13? Remember how it rolled back property taxes and tried to put a lid on Big Government growth in California?

Tax rollbacks and tax limitation ballot initiatives swept the nation.

In Massachusetts, we passed Proposition 2-1/2 - which limited government spending growth to 2-1/2% each year.

Then state and local governments exploited loopholes. Exceptions. Unfunded mandates. Repeated referendums to override the laws.

Politicians, bureaucrats, and judges undermined Proposition 13 and Proposition 2-1/2. Big Government kept growing.

Why didn't tax limitation stop the growth of Big Government? It was not intended to.

Tax limitation does not freeze government. Tax limitation allows the growth of government. Massachusetts' government is guaranteed to grow 2-1/2% every year. Unless the bureaucrats and politicians engineer an override. Then Big Government grows even bigger.

This happened in every state that passed tax limitation.

Does this go too far?

Ending the Massachusetts Income Tax would cut the state budget back to - Republican Governor William Weld's first term. Early 1990s. Still more than Governor Michael Dukakis' bloated 1980's Massachusetts budget.

"Spending rises to meet income," says Parkinson's Second Law. Government spending rises to meet government income. High taxes mean Big Government.

The only way to make government small is to dramatically reduce government income. Dramatically reduce all taxes. Or remove the biggest taxes.

Reduced taxes always grow back. Sometimes slowly. Usually quickly.

But when you pull up a weed by the roots, it can't grow back. When we end a tax, it doesn't grow back.

Our Libertarian Ballot Initiative
No tax on wages. No tax on interest or dividends. No tax on capital gains. No Income Tax.

Our Social Government Act to End the Massachusetts Income Tax Ballot Initiative is a bold first step to make government small.

We've formed The Committee for Small Government, 100% Libertarian.

Will you join us in Massachusetts?

Will you join us in a Ballot Initiative?

Proposition 2-1/2 is the most popular. Libertarians are going directly to the voters.

Some crushing taxation.

Now we have a growing movement of Tax Criers. Can't you see the need for small government advocates?

Dream Team of Libertarian Activists: Carla Howell; Michael Cloud; Peter Karpis; J.D.; Edward McCormack, J.D.; Andrew

Lallano; Kay Pirrello; R. Denise Curriam; Dave Blinn; Mimi Severson; Celeste Parent; Kamal Jain; Lance Romanoff; Peter Cuff; and many more.

Growing Libertarian Impact: 308,860 votes for Carla Howell for U.S. Senate against Ted Kennedy; 40% name recognition; 726 campaign volunteers; 5,106 campaign donors; \$821,362 raised. The Most Successful Libertarian U.S. Senate Campaign in LP history.

Extraordinary Opportunity

We must collect over 100,000 raw petition signatures by early November.

We need volunteer petitioners. But trained, skilled, professional petitioners are indispensable. They cost money.

We are thrifty and frugal and careful. Dollar for dollar, we give you the most value for your donation.

There are no limits to how much you can donate! No limits on how much your business can donate!

Several generous Libertarian donors are finding a Challenge Grant for our Libertarian Ballot Petition Drive. They will match every dollar you donate.

If you donate \$500 today, it will pay for 208 petition signatures. Our Challenge Grant Libertarian donors will match your \$500 and pay for another 208 signatures.

Or will you donate \$1,000 for petitioning costs? And have your \$1,000 matched?

Most first-time donors give between \$45 and \$85. Some give more. Some give less. We need a lot of donations, not just the big donations.

Whether you donate \$45 or \$85, or \$500 or \$1,000 - you are making our ballot petition drive possible. Please donate today.

Help End the Massachusetts Income Tax

Most first-time donors start with a donation in this range.

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100

\$85 \$65 \$45

\$150 Other: _____

Fill pay by: Check Mastercard Discover Visa American Express

Here's my check made out to: "The Committee for Small Government"

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The Most Persuasive Libertarian in America Acclaimed the LP's "Best Libertarian Communicator" Needs Your Help to Run for U.S. Senate

Michael Cloud, Libertarian for U.S. Senate (MA)

Jo Jorgensen, 1996 Libertarian Vice-Presidential nominee says, "Michael Cloud is, hands down, the best public speaker in the Libertarian Party."

Chris Azzaro, Director, Liberty Victory Fund, says, "A number of Libertarian speakers really excite Libertarian audiences. Michael Cloud does, too, but Michael Cloud is, quite simply, the most persuasive Libertarian with NON-libertarian audiences. He captivates them with new insights and outlooks, with stories and illustrations, with thought-provoking questions and a passion for our principles of liberty. When Michael Cloud gives speeches, audience members register Libertarians and join the Libertarian Party."

Chris Howell, Libertarian for Governor, says "Michael Cloud is the most electrifying, eloquent, and entertaining public speaker in the Libertarian movement. Master of the Art of Libertarian Persuasion. Put him in front of NON-libertarian audiences — and watch Michael Cloud turn them into Libertarians."

David Bradney, enormously popular Libertarian talk radio host on WZZ in Boston, says, "Spectacular! That's the only way to describe Michael Cloud."

Coaches Other Libertarians to Become Effective Communicators

Michael Cloud created the Libertarian movement's most widely used communication training tapes: *The Essence of Political Persuasion*.

He gave these training tapes away, free-of-charge, to *Advocates for Self-Government*. *Advocates* has provided these tapes at cost to 6,000 Libertarians.

Over 57,217 subscribers receive Michael Cloud's "Persuasion Power Points" column every two weeks. Free-of-charge. Provided by Michael Cloud and *Advocates for Self-Government*. (www.Self-Gov.org)

Michael Cloud coached over 639 Libertarian activists in public speaking at the Libertarian Party's Success '97 and Success '99 workshops. Free-of-charge.

Michael Cloud has persuasion-coached 17 nationally known Libertarians.

Eloquent and Quotable Phrase-Maker

Michael Cloud's remarks and comments have been quoted by *Playboy*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Reader's Digest*, the *Congressional Record*, *National Review*, and *Harper's*, as well as the *Comedy Roundtable*.

The speeches, articles, and books that he has ghost-written for clients have found their way into every major publication in America.

The Most Persuasive Libertarian in America

Why are the Massachusetts Libertarians running Michael Cloud for U.S. Senate?

Colleges and universities. Not only is Michael Cloud the Black Belt Master of the Art of Libertarian Persuasion, he is extraordinarily well-read. Politics, Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, Current Events, Cultural Trends, Religion, Science. He is able, succinct, and fluent. When Michael Cloud gives speeches to college students, he wins their hearts and minds.

Geo-owners & Gun-owners activists.



**Libertarian
for
U.S. Senate
MASSACHUSETTS**

most first, Michael Cloud is intimately familiar with pro-gun freedom books, studies, articles, evidence, and arguments. He has thoroughly researched and read the Anti-gun literature and propaganda.

He is *Headgun Control*, Inc.'s worst nightmare: educated, prepared, and a persuasive advocate of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. When Michael Cloud gives speeches to pro-gun freedom groups — many audience members become Libertarians.

TV Interviews. Michael Cloud is media-savvy and charismatic. Engaging. Not only does he do well on the air, but when the show is over, the hosts often continue the conversation and ask for more information about the party. They invite Michael Cloud back. Repeatedly. And TV viewers call the LP inquiry line.

Talk Radio Hosts and Audiences

Here's what Chris Azzaro says: "In 1996 in Nevada, I was with Michael Cloud when he was a guest on 6 talk radio shows in one day. 3 Conservatives, 1 Christian, 1 Liberal, and 1 Show-Biz. Michael Cloud mesmerized the hosts and their audiences."

Henry Parker, Gary Nolan, David Bradney, Tom Lathrop, Over 57 Talk Radio Hosts agree that Michael Cloud "wins the millions and lights up call-in lines." Service Clubs, Rotary, Civitan, Lions, Optimists, Sororities, Elks, Professional Business Women, etc. Dozens more. Michael Cloud wins them to Liberty. Michael Cloud possesses what Rafael Sebastian called "a dangerous gift of eloquence."

300 NON-libertarian audiences

Help us put Michael Cloud in front of 300 NON-libertarian audiences. His public speaking gifts may well bring in 500 new Libertarian Party members — and enroll 1,000 new Libertarian voters.

We need press kits to promote Michael Cloud, Libertarian for U.S. Senate.

We need news releases to publicize his speaking events. We need Libertarian campaign literature.

Help us put Michael Cloud in front of 300 NON-libertarian audiences.

Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Michael Cloud can help us grow the Libertarian Party. Help us enroll new members and register new Libertarian voters.

Please donate as generously as you can. Please donate today.

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<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____

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 Discover Visa AmEx

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MAIL TO: Michael Cloud for U.S. Senate - 133 Bridge Street - Salem, MA 01970. Make Federal law require political campaigns to report the names, mailing addresses, phone numbers and occupations for each individual donor contributing over \$200 in a calendar year, that this disclosure, no duplicate checks, paid for by Michael Cloud for U.S. Senate, A. Dwight Collins, Treasurer.

National Committee gives conditional approval to sweeping strategic plan

Continued from Page 16

Target existing groups to act in support of LP efforts, and provide opportunities for the LP to spread its message.

Encourage state, local, and campus LP organizations — and the party's entire support base — to be involved in the political process, outside of just campaigns.

Focus resources to achieve the repeal of drug prohibition at the federal level by 2010, and get substantial credit for it.

Increase LP activism by recognizing and rewarding effort and success, and make LP involvement more enjoyable.

Develop an awareness that political success requires adequate resources of all sorts.

The strategies and goals are interconnected, said LP Secretary Givot — who also facilitated the meetings of the Strategic Plan-

STEVE GIVOT
"Building a grassroots party cannot be done from Washington, DC."

ning Team — and different strategies can be used to accomplish one or more goals.

For example, the strategy of promoting the Libertarian Party "brand" should help accomplish the goals of increasing the party's support base; increasing public awareness; and increasing the LP's market share among youth.

To achieve the goals and

define activities. The strategic planning process was launched after the LNC voted at its December 2003 meeting to begin a formal planning process to develop an "integrated strategic plan which will form the basis to define the activities of the party until 2004," said Givot.

The SPT began the process by brainstorming with LP state chairs, and creating a list of more than 750 success-oriented ideas, which were then refined at six follow-up meetings across the USA.

The planning team included more than a dozen members of the LNC, as well as staff members from the party's Washington, DC office, elected Libertarians, and state chairs.

At the August 20-21 meeting, Lita Kennel, an At-Large Representative from Pennsylvania, was the only LNC member to vote against approving the plan.



Libertarians offer 'Build Indiana' solution

Indiana LP Executive Director Brad Klopfenstein (D) and State Chair Mark Rutherford speak at a press conference at the Indianapolis Press Club on July 9.

At the event, the two Libertarians asked the state's governor to appoint an LP member to oversee the Build Indiana Fund, a trust that finances public works projects.

However, over the past few years, Democrat and Republican politicians have given millions of dollars of Build Indiana Fund money to nonprofit organizations and religious groups. Several for-profit organizations also received money, including a daycare center and two restaurants in Indianapolis, said Rutherford.

"Allotting money from the fund for activities not related to infrastructure clearly violates the intent of the law," he said. "The fund has turned into a source of pork-barrel spending for legislators in an attempt to buy votes."

To end the corruption, Rutherford said the state should appoint former LP gubernatorial candidate Andrew Horning to oversee the fund. "That's giving it an 'every night mechanism looking out for [taxpayers'] interests."

The press conference — and a series of Indiana LP press releases — attracted quite a bit of media attention for the party over the summer months, said Rutherford.

"We figured that because it's an off-year for elections, political reporters would have less news to cover, and they would be more eager to talk with us," he said. "It looks like we were right."

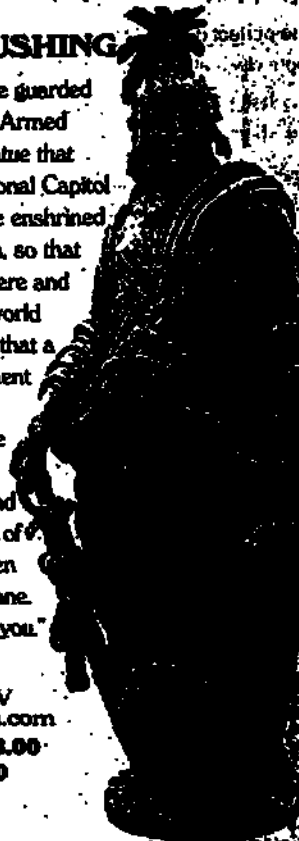
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The Top Ten best Libertarian websites

Continued from Page 20
the Advocate for Self-Government exists.

And finding out which celebrities boast of their Libertarian beliefs is just one of the things you'll learn at the site of the Freedom movement's prominent outreach organization.

Their World's Smallest Political Quiz has been taken by millions of people and helped expose many to libertarian ideology. (An interactive version is available on the site.) And its Liberator Online e-zine has introduced countless people to successful persuasion techniques from socialized Libertarian communicators such as Mary Ruwart and Michael Cloud.

The newest addition to the website is the link to the Discover Liberty project, a nationwide outreach effort that seeks to uncover tens of thousands of new libertarians. Running from July 2001 to July 2002, the goal of the project is to give the quiz to more than 500,000 people at public events.

At TheAdvocate.org, you can read more about the project and keep track of your state's participation.

Institute for Humane Studies

www.TheIHS.org

There are numerous internships and job opportunities for interested Libertarians — you just need to know where to look.

Located in Arlington, Virginia, the Institute for Humane Studies is the public policy arm of George Mason University. GMU is one of the foremost academic libertarian institutions, home to esteemed economist Walter Williams and other libertarian thinkers.

On TheIHS.org, you can find notices of free summer seminars such as "The Foundations of Liberty" (at Princeton University), grants and competitions such as the "Felix Morely Journalism Competition," scholarships and fellowships such as the "Young Communicators Fellowship," and much more.

At the site, be sure to check out Libertyguide. You'll find an internship and job databank, where dozens of jobs and opportunities at liberty-oriented think tanks and organizations are listed. Recent postings include a Director of Operations for the Cascade Policy Institute in Oregon, Director of Membership Development and Advancement for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Michigan, and an intern for the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Virginia.

By routinely securing the Libertyguide, any liberty-lover can keep abreast of potential opportunities — and perhaps even become a libertarian "professional."

How do you think the author found this job as an LP staff member?

Bureaucrash

www.Bureaucrash.com

If you are an angry, ridden Libertarian youth looking for a way to strike a (peaceful) blow against the bureaucratic state, look no further.

In Bureaucrash's own words: "We use creative activism to fight an information war against the outdated, statist ideas that characterize most youth politics."

What kind of creative activism?

How about sending out e-postcards or messages across cyberspace?

Or "raiding" parking lots with political flyers? Planting durns, halls, record stores, telephone poles and libraries with posters? Or distributing political stickers for Bureaucrash campaigns? Or you can read the site's "manifesto" and learn about other impetive ways to advance liberty.

The site also has a room where you can hook up with other Libertarian activists, or network with Bureaucrash groups in Chicago, Washington, DC, and other locations.

But the lifeblood of Bureaucrash is its protest campaigns, including the "Free Trade Now" campaign (organized by the LP's own Marc Brand) which sent libertarian protesters up to Quebec to protest government-managed trade. Or, there's the "Tax Heavy Books" campaign, which was organized by DC Libertarians. And there's the upcoming "White Flag Protest" campaign (details to be revealed soon).

One note: Bureaucrash's "responsibility statement" requires that all protesters temper their actions with common sense and respect for the rights of others — something all Libertarians can appreciate.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul

www.House.gov/rotpaul

The Libertarian Party may not have elected any U.S. Representatives under its own banner (yet), but Rep. Ron Paul (TX) is definitely the next best thing.

Paul, who ran as the LP presidential candidate in 1996, is respectfully known as "Dr. No" in the U.S. House for his refusal to support any legislation that empowers the government at the expense of individual liberty.

Paul's website, dubbed "Project Freedom," is a wealth of information. You can read the pro-liberty legislation Rep. Paul has sponsored or co-sponsored, such as HR 2022 (to lift the trade embargo on Cuba), HR 1922 (to repeal all federal gun-control laws), and HR 1827 (to repeal the Selective Service Act).

You can also read weekly installments of his column, "Tues-



pecially valuable tool for the crisis-ridden freedom fighter.

All those who say the "practical" world of politics requires a compromise of principle need look no further than Ron Paul's website to see they are dead wrong.

Libertarian Party

www.LP.org

Selfless self-promotion? Most definitely. But it's our list — did you really think we'd leave off our own website?

Honestly, the LP website is damn comprehensive. Simply by clicking a button, any Libertarian — or "liberty-curious" web surfer — can read the LP bylaws and platform, get a comprehensive explanation of Libertarian principles, learn about local candidates and events, purchase name materials, and even register to vote.

Visitors can also keep abreast of party activities by signing up for the LP's "announce list" or by reading new press releases and news stories. New content is posted almost every day, and includes such stories as "Alabama LP wins major party status," and

"Congress, get off your Bush and pass the new 'tax-out bill' (a light-hearted press release about a serious Aspie: The federal tax on heat).

Another interesting part of the website is the "regionalization" feature. Click in the green box and information for your own state will be featured on the front page.

We also recommend taking the virtual site tour to potential members — it's a quick and informative introduction for anyone who asks "What's a Libertarian?" Afterward, they can instantly become a member online, or sign up for a free packet of more information.

Top Ten

Well there you have it: The "Top 10 Libertarian Websites."

Of course, there are more than five billion websites, so this is by no means an exhaustive list. But it is a good place to start for fledgling libertarian web surfers — and a useful reminder for cyber-savvy veterans.

(Know of a website we missed? Send it to us — along with a brief description of why it's a libertarian classic — and we'll try to mention it in a future issue of LP News. E-mail suggestions to: Jonathan/Dragon/ing.LP.org.)

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Continued from Page 32
 parties really cared about the poor, why do we still have poverty after so many decades of waiting for Republicans and Democrats to fix the problem?

If a voter really cares about the poor, shouldn't she vote against a system that has perpetuated poverty?

There are the kinds of questions Libertarian candidates need to ask voters, BEFORE they're cast as "holib.".

Virginia gubernatorial candidate Bill Redpath's campaign slogan is "Anything That's Peaceful."

I think that's a good start towards repositioning the LP as the only truly compassionate political party.

— **NOELLE STREYNER**
 Falls Church, Virginia

Not successful

In his letter "After prohibition", (September 2001) Patrick Groff is critical of Libertarian activists to repeal current drug laws because Libertarians do not stipu-

late "explicitly how society will protect children from gaining possession and use of drugs that adults find easy to obtain and inhale."

I would like to point out to Mr. Groff that the drug war has not protected us, and in fact drug use among our children is rampant.

The evidence of this is frequently in the news. In August, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University released the results of a survey. These results show that 69% of high-schoolers and 46% of middle-schoolers said drugs were "used, kept and sold on their campuses."

I would like Mr. Groff to explain to me what it is about the current U.S. policy of prohibition that is so "successful."

The drug war has created a black-market, which generates \$400 billion annually, according to a 1998 United Nations report. That money is used to buy lots of weapons, bribe local police and officials, support drug cartels,

THE DRUG WAR has not protected us. Drug use among children is rampant. What is it about the current policy that is so 'successful'?

Further comments, etc.
 I don't think America is valuing the lives of its children. I don't think it's worth the cost of the drug war. What our social system does like other governments can be more in place. I don't think we should have a drug war. I think we should have a drug war that is not a war. I think we should have a drug war that is not a war. I think we should have a drug war that is not a war.

"It can be seen in Europe, where the realization has dawned that reducing the harm from drugs is what is important, and that prison is something that increases harm."
 — **LARRY FICKENBROW**
 Fort Worth, Texas

Best ever issue

I just wanted to write to say that the August issue of LP News was one of the best ever.

I don't know if you're doing anything differently, but I thought this month was just jam-packed with useful articles and commentary and great news stories and features. It's actually useful as an outreach piece.

I plan on showing it to a few friends who are sitting on the political fence. Keep up the good work!

— **MIKE TOMASO**
 Nashua, New Hampshire

Flavored Pop-Tops

There's nothing wrong with the current August issue of LP News. The biggest advantage of the new plan is that it gives LP more money. The Libertarian Party should have more money.

eking the creation of a new tax, even one that would replace a much larger and oppressive income tax, or move us in the "right direction."

Libertarians don't advocate the initiation of fiscal ill's right there in the pledge in we all signed.

— **JIM LACRYNENKI**
 New York, New York

Another federal check

While I totally agree with Steven Saxe that the tax code needs serious overhauling, I question the wisdom of another government bureaucracy sending out checks.

Who is going to decide how much money a family or person needs to pay? The same folks who brought you the Post Office and tolls that don't flush.

I think the flat tax idea has gone south, but I'm not going to hold my breath.

— **NICK LARSEN**
 Ross River, Florida

Down to zero

A sales tax on food is not a "flat tax." I'll agree to no sales tax on anything used, but we can't eat the tax money. Page 34

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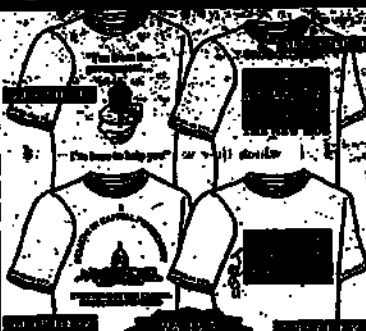
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