

Let Freedom Ring!

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September 2001

No Penalty for Browne!

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Willis Gets The Blame

National Committee: Matter 'Closed'

Confronted with former National Director Perry Willis's confession that in 1995-1996 Harry Browne's Presidential campaign paid him secret gratuities, and that the payments gave Browne the 1996 Presidential nomination, the Libertarian National Committee advised Browne that his behavior had been incorrect. Only Willis was penalized. The National Committee now hopes the matter will go away.

On an 8-8 vote, the National Committee rejected a motion (texts of all motions follow) censuring Willis and banning business relationships between

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Gorman Finishes Second

At the August National Committee meeting, the National Committee conducted an election to fill the position of Vice Chair, vacated by Dan Fylstra's resignation. The election of Vice Chair happened late on Sunday. Don Gorman finished behind Ken Bisson on a vote of 10-7. Bisson's elevation to the Vice Chair position created a vacancy for an At-Large Representative. In a further election, Don Gorman defeated Charles Williams (South Carolina State Chair) on a 13-4 vote. The National Committee then agreed to elect one more member to the Executive Committee, to bring its membership back to 7. The candidates were Gorman and Eli Israel. Gorman finished behind Israel on a 10-8 vote.

While all elections were by secret ballot, friends and reporters had ascertained who was committed to supporting whom. Based on a variety of sources, for the Vice Chair election supporter were **Gorman:** Kaneshiki, Gaztanaga, Milsted, Dehn, Scherrey, Nelson, Turney.

Bisson: Lark, Givot, Martin, Bisson, Lieberman, Israel, Karlan, Rutherford, Hoch, Dixon.

Lark did not abstain in any election.

For the ExComm election, all Bisson votes transferred to Israel; Gorman was his own eighth vote.

Condit, Matthias On Ballot!

Jeff Chase writes: "I am very pleased to announce the successful completion of Jim Condit's petitioning for a slot on November's Cambridge (Massachusetts) City Council ballot!..." Chase reports that Cambridge uses a preferential vote system, and that Condit is the first name on the ballot.

In Ashland and Framingham, Craig Mathias has gained ballot status for the partisan State Representative special election this October 23. Mathias has been elected as a Libertarian to various positions for 10 consecutive years, including a three-year term on the Board of Selectman and one year of that as Chairman. The opposition is said to be not well known except for their yard ads. Things look good. There is no incumbent. Voter turnout will be low.

Fredrickson Misses Ballot He Had No Help from MA-LP

Jim Fredrickson, potential Libertarian candidate for Congress in the open-seat Massachusetts 9th District election, reports that he missed getting on the ballot. He collected 4500 signatures, needed 2000 valid, and missed by several hundred. A shortened petitioning period and low Boston petition signature validity rates did the damage. Fredrickson writes: "I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone who stood up to be counted when it mattered. There are more than a few, and I am both proud of you and grateful.

Still, a few went far above and beyond, and deserve public thanks. They are Richard Freedman, Steve Olson, and George Phillies."

Commenting on the failure, Libertarian activist Dan MacKenzie of Waltham wrote "Somebody came forward to be a candidate for an open congressional seat and we didn't help him enough."

Fredrickson further commented:

"I am deeply grateful to those who responded. To those who did not, I understand that there are many

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(Continued from page 1) **[Browne Campaign Not Penalized!]**

the National Committee and organizations in which Willis had a significant financial or governance involvement. Even confronted with a tie, Chairman James Lark could not bring himself to vote.

On an 11-3 vote, the National Committee censured Willis for 'performing work' for the Browne campaign, and ordered that the LNC and Willis transact no business for five years. However, campaigns employing Willis as a campaign manager may rent LNC mailing lists and advertise in LP News as external customers. The matter was then declared closed. In a further motion passed 10-6, the National Committee "admonished" Harry Browne and Jack Dean and called upon Browne, Dean, Michael Cloud, Sharon Ayres, and David Bergland to denounce Willis's acts. Finally, on a voice vote, the LNC resolved "To rescind the agreement of 21 April to be a plaintiff in the proposed Harry Browne lawsuit against the FEC."

The Full Motions: (By Report; Final Minutes Unapproved)

(1) Motion by Israel, passed as amended

Whereas John Famularo has presented evidence to the Libertarian National Committee that Perry Willis, while National Director of the Libertarian Party, performed work for the 1996 Harry Browne for President campaign in violation of LNC rules,

And whereas Perry Willis subsequently admitted that he had indeed performed such work, in contradiction to his previous statements,

Therefore, the Libertarian National Committee hereby censures Perry Willis for performing said work on the 1996 Harry Browne for President campaign while employed as Libertarian National Director, and for denying to his employer that he had done so.

We also resolve that neither the Libertarian National Committee nor the National Director shall engage Perry Willis or any business owned or controlled by him (collectively "Willis organizations") directly as either an employee or a contractor for a minimum period of five (5) years. Willis organizations may not directly advertise in LP News and/or rent the Libertarian national mailing list during such time period.

We further resolve that organizations (other than Willis organizations) with which Willis organizations may be affiliated or act as campaign manager may only purchase advertising in LP News and/or rent the Libertarian national mailing list subject to the terms and conditions required in the LNC policy manual for external customers.

The Libertarian National Committee further resolves that this issue is closed, and no further action shall be taken unless additional credible evidence is presented to the Committee.

YES: Bisson, Dixon, Hoch, Israel, Karlan, Lieberman, Martin, Milsted, Nelson, Rutherford, Turney

NO: Gaztanaga, Kaneshiki, Scherrey

ABSTAIN: Dehn, Givot, Lark

(2) Motion to Substitute for 1, by Scherrey (failed)

Whereas, Perry Willis had agreed, as part of his continued employment consideration as National Director and in accordance with LNC policy, to no longer work on behalf of individual pre-nomination candidates for public office;

Whereas, Mr. Willis has for several years thereafter denied, and knowingly allowed others to deny on his behalf, performing such prohibited work;

Whereas, upon confrontation with evidence presented by John Famularo, Mr. Willis has since admitted to having continued to perform such prohibited work which he has heretofore been denied; and

Resolved, that said actions and allowance of actions have caused great damage to the integrity and credibility of the Libertarian Party, and the Libertarian National Committee, and those individuals who, upon his bad faith assurance, made honest efforts to defend his person against such accusations;

Resolved, that said actions are just grounds for termination for cause, and are violation of the LP prohibition of initiation of use of force through fraud which Mr. Willis has affirmed as part of his membership in the LP;

Order, that Perry Willis is hereby CENSURED by this Libertarian National Committee for said violations and betrayals; and

Order, that the Libertarian Party immediately cease, and further prohibit entering into relationships with, the utilization of Libertarian Party assets for, and further associations or transactions with Mr. Willis, and organizations where Mr. Willis has significant governance of and/or financial interest.

YES: Dehn, Gaztanaga, Givot, Hoch, Kaneshiki, Milsted, Scherrey, Turney

NO: Bisson, Dixon, Israel, Karlan, Lieberman, Martin, Nelson, Rutherford

ABSTAIN ON TIE: Lark

(3) Motion on Others, by Scherrey (Passed)

Whereas, Harry Browne acted to and did finally achieve the nomination by the Libertarian Party for President of the United States in 1996;

Whereas, Mr. Browne contracted for the services of the National Director, Perry Willis at that time, for purposes of his campaign and against LNC policy;

Whereas, it appears from the evidence submitted to this committee that when said violation of policy was made pub-

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lic in late 1995 Mr. Browne then may have cooperated with Mr. Willis to hide such violations by funneling further contracts with Mr. Willis through Jack Dean's company;

Whereas, when asked to respond to inquiries by our Chair for purposes of investigating this matter, Mr. Browne refused to cooperate with said investigation;

It is ordered that Harry Browne and Jack Dean are hereby admonished for their participation in aiding Mr. Willis to violate LNC policy and willfully seeking to impede said investigation; and

Call upon Mr. Browne, fellow campaign staff and committee members Sharon Ayres, David Bergland, Michael Cloud, and contractor Jack Dean to publicly denounce this violation of LNC policy by Perry Willis and specifically his declaring "the best interests of the LP" as justification for the violation.

YES: Dehn, Dixon, Gaztanaga, Givot, Kaneshiki, Karlan, Milsted, Nelson, Scherrey, Turney

NO: Bisson, Hoch, Israel, Lieberman, Martin, Rutherford

ABSTAIN: Lark

Analysis by the Staff of Let Freedom Ring!

National Committee votes on the three resolutions and on the elections to fill vacancies in the National Committee show a deep division within the National Committee. This is a positive change. Past National Committees were uncritical of presented data. The 1998-2000 National Committee was given a 'Strategic Plan' that called for the LP being seen as serious challengers to take control of Congress before 2010, an image so remote from reality that one might have expected the committee to take some exception. Presented with the same Plan, the current National Committee would subject it to vigorous debate.

The factions are clearly visible. Representing the policies and directions of the past decade as led by Harry Browne, David Bergland, Perry Willis, and Michael Cloud are Bisson, Givot, Martin, Lieberman, Israel, Karlan, Rutherford, Hoch, and Dixon. Representing new directions are Kaneshiki, Gaztanaga, Gorman, Schwartz (at this meeting, Milsted), and Nelson. In the middle are Dehn, Gilson (at this meeting, Scherrey) and Turney. National Chair James Lark was the groomed candidate of the forces of the past decade, and has proven to be a weak chair. Neither faction is rock solid. Outrage over the Browne nomination scandal overcame other loyalties.

It was rumored before the National Committee meeting that Perry Willis would fall on his sword to shield Browne and his campaign staffers and consultants from anything beyond a mild reprimand. Indeed, Jack Dean, Sharon Ayres, David Bergland and Michael Cloud escaped with admonishment or a request for self-criticism. In The Party of Principle, it is difficult to believe that members will uniformly agree that it is appropriate to discipline someone for doing improper 'work' — the LNC did not mention money—while not penalizing the people whose money led the 'worker' astray. Given the unanswered moral and financial questions, it is even harder to believe that members will agree that the matter is 'closed'.

LNC Financial Crisis Deepens June Financials—"Disastrous"

National Treasurer Deryl Martin has advised the Libertarian National Committee "I would term June Financials as being disastrous." In his August 25 report, Martin noted that June collections were \$208,000 less than in 1999, and continued "If this trend holds for the remainder of the year without significant reversal, then we're looking at 2001 revenues being the lowest since 1995 and possibly equaling those of 1996 (\$2.18 million)."

At the start of the year, the National Party launched a campaign to set aside a \$150,000 reserve fund, buying CDs at the rate of \$25,000 a month. After March, purchases stopped; the Party had at least one major Bill more than 90 days past due, and the money was not available. In July, matters deteriorated further. Martin reported to the LNC "In mid-(July), it became apparent to me that without significantly high returns from the July House letter, we would probably need to cash in one of our three \$25,000 CD's toward the end of the month... we did cash one CD at the end of July." Our sources report that the July fundraising letter, lamenting the declining LPUS membership but not asking why, did substantially more poorly than expected, bringing in roughly \$30,000 less than projected.

Part of the National Party's difficulty is that its budgets grossly overproject income. In 1999, the Party budgeted for 3.64 million dollars in revenue, but only took in 2.69 million, a 26% shortfall. In 2000, the Party budgeted for 5.12 million dollars in revenue, but only took in 3.59 million, a 30% shortfall. In 2001, the budgeted revenue was 3.13 million, but first-half income was only 1.11 million, a prorata 30% shortfall. A search of LNC Minutes does not reveal discussion of the basis for these estimates or why they were erroneous.

Membership in the National Party has fallen precipitously in 2001. From 33,261 members in Election Month 2000, membership dropped more than 10% to barely 30,000 on August 1, 2001. The Unified Member Plan (UMP) plan puts an extra strain on National Party resources. Under UMP, the National Party collects both National and State dues; it also keeps almost all donations made with the renewal. National then pays the state each member's dues in even monthly installments, so that if a person joins in February, the state only sees part of his dues the next January. There is no escrow fund at National; National generally spends the income almost at once. So long as membership rises, National's dues income in each new month is more than enough to pay the current installment, namely 1/12 of the dues of all state members. However, when membership falls, because state dues are not kept in escrow accounts, National must cover the difference out of its share of current dues income.

On the bright side, the Party's auditors gave the 1999 and 2000 reports unqualified audit appraisals.

Drive Against Kaneshiki—Exposed! Threats to Force Her from LNC

Let Freedom Ring! has been given the text of an electronic mail message in which a prominent member of the Libertarian National Committee threatens to have Lois Kaneshiki expelled from the National Committee. Kaneshiki, who in 2000 ran for the National Committee as part of The Clean Slate, has been a regular critic of LNC Administration. This is the second such threat Kaneshiki has received from a current National Officer in the past year.

Most Libertarians first heard of the events preceding the threat through the lpus-misc@dehnbased.org email list. Tom Knapp, responding to an attack on himself by Dan Wisnosky — because Knapp lobbied in the corridors rather than sitting in a meeting in which he could not vote — wrote:

“I (Knapp) wonder what the state chairs of your (Wisnosky’s) region would think of your discussion at Yanni’s (the bar next door to the Marriott Suites, where the LNC meeting was held), on the evening of the 25th of August and/or the early morning of the 26th of August, involving yourself and three LNC members, as well as the executive director of the LP of Nevada, the topic of which was how to force the resignation of another LNC member?”

First response came from former Nevada LP Executive Director Chris Azzaro, who said “I just want to make sure that everyone on this list is clear that I am NOT the Nevada executive director.”...“(The Executive Director is) is Kat Schlesinger, who was appointed to that position last week, and is Dan Wisnosky’s girlfriend.”

Libertarian columnist Della Croft, whose report we hope to have for the next issue, added “It amazes me that Mr. Wisnosky had the time to keep such meticulous records of Mr. Knapp’s activities given the amount of time he devoted to obvious eye rolls and looks of irritation every time Ms. Kaneshiki spoke.”

In a separate comment, Azzaro added “Actually, I was amazed at the amount of disrespect that was shown to Ms. Kaneshiki throughout the meeting. Towards the end, several LNC members were openly laughing out loud while Lois was speaking about serious issues. I found that to be very disappointing and unprofessional. Regardless of whether one agrees with another person’s ideas, or even finds them ridiculous, every person on the LNC (or any other similar LP committee) deserves to be treated with respect and courtesy.”

A further post revealed Knapp’s source: “I am Della Croft. I am also the person that overheard the conversation concerning Ms. Kaneshiki at Yanni’s bar the weekend of the LNC meeting...I attended the LNC meeting as an average LP member working in the trenches...”

“I felt that Ms Kaneshiki was treated very unkindly during

the course of both sessions. As pointed out to Mr. Azzaro in a previous post to this list, LNC members actually snickered and rolled their eyes as Ms. Kaneshiki spoke. I seriously doubt that any of them can recall the substance of her statements or could intelligently refute them because they were too involved in playground antics. Common courtesy should be the least we can expect at these meetings. I complained bitterly to Mr. Knapp and, upon my return home, to Mr. Famularo and Mr. Sturzenacker about what I perceived as a boy’s club attempting to bully the only girl...

“Late Saturday evening/early Sunday morning, I joined Mr. Knapp, Mr. Lark, Ms. Ramirez, Mr. Hayes at a bar called Yanni’s. Shortly after we sat down, another group came to sit at the table next to us. Our tables were quite close and I do not suffer from hearing loss so it was not a strain to hear what was being discussed. The first remarks I heard were complaints from a woman about Ms. Kaneshiki’s criticism of the Strategic Plan. The second remark was, “We should force her to resign.” That remark caused me to look over my shoulder and at that point I identified Mr. Wisnosky as the source of the statement. I was also able to identify Ms. Schlesinger as the source of the previous remark. The next remark came from an unknown male voice who said that it will have to wait until the convention next year...”

Wisnosky has categorically denied making the statement.

In a message purported to be from National Secretary Steve Givot to Lois Kaneshiki, dated August 30, 2001, preceding such remarks as “... ignorance has never stopped Lois Kaneshiki from forming a conclusion...Lois crossed the line and impugned the integrity of others -- truly good people -- based on the mountain of fecal material she has built in her mind..”, one finds (directed to Kaneshiki):

“Since you are not part of SPT (having reneged on your commitment, I’ll note), you are not part of the marketing plan or its implementation.

“I understand that you all but threatened the LNC not to send anyone into PA to attempt to market the plan. That speaks volumes about your willingness to permit the other leaders of LPPA to reach their own, independent conclusions about the value of the strategic plan. It also smacks of censorship, bureaucracy, dictatorship, and -- horror of all horrors -- TOP DOWN management within LPPA.

“Unless you are trying to undermine the efforts of the LNC to market the plan, I cannot imagine why you would have ANY interest whatsoever in what we are doing to market it.

“And if you are trying to undermine the efforts of the LNC to market the plan, I’ll be the person making the motion to remove you from the LNC for cause.”

Our other sources report that the LNC voted “to take the plan to the affiliate’s executive committees to seek input and comments. “ Seeking input on the plan and marketing it to state committees apparently overlap as activities.

Declaration of Surrender

...David Rostcheck [David Rostcheck was a prominent Green and Gay Rights Activist, and co-founder of the Pink Pistols.] After a year of careful consideration and after exploring almost every possible alternative, I have decided to join the Libertarian Party.

Those who know me will realize that I do not make this decision lightly. I have long sparred with my friend and fellow activist, Pink Pistols founder Doug Krick, over libertarian political philosophy. As we have worked to change the public's negative perception of gun owners and seen more of our state's laws and the process by which they are made, I have found, to my great surprise, that the underlying problem that has slowly come into my focus is the problem he identified from the start - the over-reaching growth of government power. After careful consideration of the pattern of evidence, I have come to believe that the only the Libertarian party is able to correctly identify and aggressively attack this problem and save our rights.

I come from the background of a progressive activist for social justice, and in that capacity I have fought long and hard for the protection of civil rights. In that capacity, as I attained higher positions of visibility in the GLBT rights movement, I began to become aware that many of the movement's leaders do not in any way ascribe to the principles that the movement allegedly holds. While one might, perhaps naively, assume that people who devote much of their lives to a cause would believe in that cause's principles, I have found the opposite to be more frequently true. I gradually became aware that, at an organizational level, the Gay and Lesbian political movement is essentially nothing more a voting block, the New Un-ions pulling the lever on request for the candidate most favored by their leaders. Most of those who ascribe to positions of leadership as "progressives" are simply Democrats, who often hold positions diametrically opposed to the principles of progressive politics.

My year of activism with the Pink Pistols has provided a sobering education in what "progressives" do to people they do not like. I have seen gun owners comprehensively demonized and discriminated against by those who publicly claim opposition to discrimination and bigotry. Phrases like "gun nut" and "right wing wackos" roll easily from the same lips that mouth the canons of "equality" and "justice". "Progressive" leaders censor, discriminate, smear, and demonize with gleeful zeal. In reality, few of those who call themselves "progressive" really, truly believe in equality or justice, and those few who do are damned by their silence.

When I saw "progressive" GLBT organizations vote to endorse a lesbian candidate who openly and proudly wrote discrimination into gun laws to oppress people she did not like, I realized that I could no longer align myself with a movement that brazenly scorns the principles it publicly aspires to. When I saw that my peers, who work for civil rights organizations, literally had no idea what the Bill of Rights was, I realized that I could never respect these people as civil rights advocates. I refuse to play this game and I refuse to honor this lie. I will never again sit through an-

other workshop on "diversity" taught by a bigot or listen to another speech on "equal justice" given by a hypocrite. I will never send another check to a "diversity based" organization that then sends it out to a bigot. I refuse to be a party to this fraud.

I became a progressive activist for social justice because I believed unshakeably in the concept of equal justice under law and in the framework of natural rights secured by the Constitution. I left the progressive movement because I believed unshakeably in the concept of equal justice under law and in the framework of natural rights secured by the Constitution. What good are civil rights activists who do not fight to protect the framework of the Constitution that secures those rights? Their house burns while they paint the walls. The social justice movement often serves as a diversion, a cheap fraud designed to trick committed activists into chasing in circles while their rights are systematically stripped away. I will gain my equality the old-fashioned way - I will earn it, assert it, fight for it and defend it. I will not beg for it, whine for it, or purchase it at the price of someone else's liberty.

I did not come easily to the Libertarian Party. I resisted its arguments with skepticism and vigor. I do not believe that it is perfect or that its answers are always correct, and there are some problems that do require government action to solve. I do not believe that its goals are a perfect return to Constitutional principles - but they are much closer than those of any other party. The Green Party accurately identifies many otherwise unnamed but critical issues, such as the effects of the WTO and corporate welfare abuses, such as the sale of mineral rights from public lands to corporate interests for only a few dollars. However, while the Green Party accurately understands the problems, it does not understand the root causes, which lie in the unconstitutional expansion of government power. I have been won over not by the persuasive arguments of a great orator, but by the slow piling up of an undeniable weight of evidence showing a concrete and demonstrable pattern of illegal expansion of government power, and the systematic removal of the checks and balances that constrained it, to only one possible end - the fearful, but historically common, evil of tyranny. No nation is immune to history, and no action immune to consequence.

No party that cannot name and oppose the erosion of Constitutional law will ever be able to stop this erosion. Only the Libertarians have the courage and clarity to name the enemy and stand firmly against it. The supposed political sophisticates smugly dismiss such adherence to principles as naive and outmoded, claiming that a party which fails to pander to the manipulated masses cannot succeed. But what route is this? Playing politics by the rigged rules of public opinion polls would deliver any party that did not control the media manipulation into the hands of those that do. What good is fighting for power without principle? Anyone who would chose this route cannot exercise the responsibility necessary to wield power justly. To fight corruption without moral

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conviction is to fight a flood with a fire hose; such action merely furthers the problem. To restore principled government, we must use principled politics. I now believe that the only party that can effectively restore the protection of our rights is the Libertarian party.

...David Rostcheck "The New Apologists"
at <http://davidr.ne.mediaone.net:85>

Other Political News

Barbara Goushaw, whose "Shut the ____ Up!" campaign to silence Libertarian activist Bumper Hornberger was prominent in the 2000 campaign cycle, has resigned from the Libertarian National Committee. Goushaw is reported to have circulated to Michigan activists a letter of apology for her statements in defense of Browne, Willis, and company.

Real Libertarians Beware! The Republican Libertarian Caucus continues to show signs of the heavy support now being given it by the Republican Party. Its new National Finance Chairman is Sam Brunelli, who spent a decade as Executive Director of the American Legislative Exchange Council, a group of elected officials and business executives. Also joining as Special Liason to the Republican National Committee is New Mexico Republican Chair John Dendahl. New consultants include long-time activists Lyn Nofziger and Mark Montini, former head of the Republican Party's Leadership Institute, which specializes in training candidates and activists.

RLC Officers, whose influence over an organization heavily funded by the Republican Party is open to significant question, include many prominent formerly-Libertarian candidates, activists, and former National and State Officers. The marked increase in visible RLC funding over the past year, together with reported defections from the Party of Liberty to the Republicans, implies that the RLC will create an increasing challenge for Libertarian Activists across the United States.

Some Internet Service Providers in Massachusetts are known to have become significantly upset that the Carla Howell Governor in 2002 campaign chose a California firm to provide her web services. At least one firm offered substantial discounts and then needed to spend a month chasing down appropriate campaign officials to have the offer acknowledged. According to company officials in touch with Let Freedom Ring!, the Massachusetts firm was rejected without being allowed to present its bid.

The Howell for Governor Campaign chose to use as its web provider Web Commanders, which is widely said to be owned by Jack Dean. Dean was recently 'admonished' by the Libertarian National Committee for 'aiding Mr. Willis to violate LNC Policy' and for 'willfully seeking to impede said (the LNC's) investigation.'

There are web firms inside Massachusetts. In fact, the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, and your Editor's Congressional campaign all used excellent Massachusetts commercial firms to do political and educational activism in Massachusetts.

(Continued from page 1) [Fredrickson]

demands on our time and resources. Also, the very brief period we had to get signatures, coupled with my last minute decision to run, likely left many people with little to no time to bring themselves to a state of commitment. I note that by the end of the petition drive, people were starting to get excited. Maybe if we had just one more week, we might have gotten it done. Momentum was building.

As for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts itself, I think the party apparatus needs to come to grips with the fact that I would have made it on the ballot with hundreds, maybe thousands, of votes to spare, had I run as an independent. It was a losing proposition to run as a major party candidate without major party support.

I recognize that I was a new name and face. As an unknown quantity, there may well have been a concern that I might embarrass the party or otherwise misrepresent libertarian principles. I can understand that. Still, there should be a frank and open discussion as to whether or not future Congressional candidates should run as independent rather than libertarian, as it is immediately obvious that this would have been the winning strategy in this instance."

Editorial

It's Called 'Responsibility'

I ran for Congress in 1998, and got on the ballot with 3000 raw signatures. Jim Fredrickson collected 50% more signatures, and is off the ballot. Why? What's the difference?

The difference is the Eli Israel-Michael Cloud-Carla Howell faction of the Massachusetts Libertarian Party and their illogical pursuit of Massachusetts' "major party status" without regard to consequences. In Massachusetts, 'major party status' means 'you need triple the signatures you did before'.

For the first half of the year, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts had Federal receipts of \$55,975.50, not a dime of which went to Jim Fredrickson. It had a full time paid volunteer coordinator, not on the scene. It had an announcement list, in which a hotel banquet to hear the faithful preach to the faithful had higher priority than an election.

A fundamental theme of the Libertarian movement is *individual responsibility*. You make a mess on someone's lawn, you clean it up. You don't pretend it will go away by itself. The State and National Libertarian Committees made the mess that put Fredrickson in his pickle: They supported a Senate campaign that finished third, made \$76,000 for its campaign manager, and poisoned the well by tripling petitioning requirements for every later candidate. They then walked away.

State Chair Eli Israel, his State Committee, the Senate Campaign of Carla Howell with Campaign CEO Michael Cloud, and the Washington stooges who slipped Howell's campaign the \$22,000 of LP support all show from their deeds that they reject a basic Libertarian principle: *responsibility*.