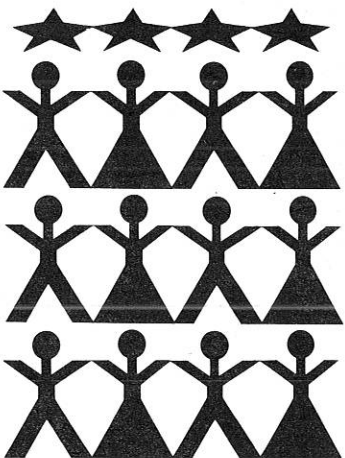


**POLITICS
AS
USUAL:
too many laws,
too much govt.**



**Application for Membership
Society for Libertarian Life
P.O. Box 4
Fullerton, CA 92632**



Please enter my membership in SLL.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 AGE _____ SCHOOL or OCCUPATION _____
 PHONE (____) _____ DATE ____/____/____
 Make checks payable to SLL.

Check One

- ONE YEAR-- \$1.00
- TWO YEARS-- \$2.00
- CONTRIBUTION ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____
- TO AID THE WORK OF SLL.
- PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION ON SLL.

THE LIBERTAS STATEMENT

We, as libertarians, affirm:
 That full individual liberty is impossible in any society other than a voluntary one that aggresses upon no one;
 That men and women require the full and independent use of their own judgment in order to survive at an optimum level, and therefore have a right to be free from the arbitrary and coercive control of the State, or harm or coercively restrict another individual's life, liberty, or property;
 That everyone is exclusively sovereign, and is a slave to no one;
 That the individual is best served by society when he or she is free from the forcefully imposed controls of others, acting alone or in concert (as a government);
 That all forms of coercion, aggression and fraud are always immoral;
 That the only system consistent with personal freedoms in the economic realm is one that does not interfere with free trade between individuals; that the only system that does not interfere with free trade between individuals is the free market;
 That the State is a government, responsible for the protection of individuals by any State. Governments oppose individuals of aggression, eminent domain, laws which create victimless "crimes," and all programs forced onto individuals without their consent. It is time that individuals be free from the arbitrary and coercive control of the State. Individual rights and coercion cannot co-exist. Liberty cannot be compromised, and we will settle for no less than freedom in our time.

WASHINGTON - World Airways wants to establish regularly scheduled cross country flights for \$89, but the CAB is not likely to approve because it would create "cut-throat competition." The CAB rejected a bid by TWA to cut airline fares by about one-third for some passengers.

Wall Street Journal, April 24, 1975

OTHER ABSURDITIES IN OTHER LANDS

MOSCOW - "If you ever come down with veneral disease in the Soviet Union, just keep it to yourself."

"Believe it or not, it's a crime in Russia to catch V.D., and it's even more serious to spread it around."

"In the Soviet region of Georgia, for instance, any person diagnosed with V.D. there can get two years in prison. And anyone convicted of spreading it to a minor or to more than two other people can end up in the slammer for five years."

Los Angeles Free Press, April 12, 1974

YUGOSLAVIA - A Yugoslav writer was sentenced to 7 years in jail on charges which included "slandering Yugoslavia by having written that there is no freedom of speech or expression." *Wall Street Journal, March 3, 1975*

Government is suppose to defend the individual rights of citizens, performing its duty as a night watchman ready to fight off crooks, rogues and hooligans. But the night watchman has turned on those he is suppose to protect. Today, through millions of laws and regulations, the common citizen has become the new criminal breed. Government is spending more time and money to catch those person who disobey governmental laws than those persons who aggress upon another human being.

The biggest danger from too many legislated laws and regulations is the eventual outcome. Richard and Ernestine Perkins in *Precondition for Peace and Prosperity* wrote:

"When conflicts and problems arise in society, the only ultimate answer of government is to pass a law. Hence the more problems and the more laws there are, the greater the probability that more of them will be broken; ergo, more crime! More crime necessitates a greater governmental police force with greater arbitrary power. Thus the logical progression to which all governments lead- is the police state."

As more and more laws are passed, more and more people are likely to be caught and jailed as criminals. Eventually, everyone could become a criminal, as defined by the State. And on that day those ridiculous laws and regulations won't look so ridiculous; they will be frightening.

Ask not what government can do for you, ask rather what government is doing to you.

David Friedman
The Machinery of Freedom

Haven't you ever wondered why some people are arrested, fined and jailed for seemingly ridiculous violations? Haven't you wondered how such 'victimless crime' laws were ever passed by legislators in the first place? Well, we wonder too. But we also wonder if it is at all possible to prevent the enactments of absurd laws; laws which become more dangerous, coercive and outrageous with each passing day.

Below are old and new laws which are on the books. No matter how ridiculous they seem, they are real laws, which, according to the law, must be enforced. And those laws which have been enforced have made a mockery of real laws (laws to protect citizens from violence and fraud).

THE ABSURD LAWS OF THE STATE

COLUMBUS, Ohio - "Eleven-year-old Jeff Gyde, arrested on a charge of selling \$4.50 of fish bait without a license, gained the support of a legislator who wants an investigation and apology from the State."

"Jeff, who opened a fish bait stand in the yard of his family's Ottawa County farm, was charged after wildlife undercover agents made purchases of crayfish and worms."

"Jeff had been charged with delinquency for failing to have a permit to sell crayfish. The penalty for conviction ranges from \$100 to \$500, even for a juvenile. Jeff did not need a permit to sell the worms, just the crayfish, according to Ohio law." *Associated Press, August 26, 1976*

CLEVELAND - "A 59-year-old widow who pawned her wedding ring to pay for a new roof on her house to comply with city housing codes, was jailed anyway last week for failing to have the house painted or weather-tightened."

"Mrs. Flora M. Thorpe sold the ring to pay for a new roof on her west side home, a two-and-a-half-story dwelling."

"But housing inspectors arrested her after she told them she couldn't afford the additional work they demanded."

"She breeds and sells dogs in her home to supplement her monthly income of \$130, but the inspectors cited her for that, too."

"I would have to stop living if not for the small dog breeding business," Mrs. Thorpe said.
United Press International, May 1, 1973

SEATTLE - "It's going to cost the City of Seattle \$252.80 to bring Jack Zetkzer to trial in

municipal court on charges of illegally riding his skateboard."

"The 39-year-old unemployed mathematician, chemist, computer programmer and geologist was 'shooting down the hill' last week on his skateboard when he was ticketed by police officers."

"If convicted, Zektzer could be fined up to \$500, with six months in jail. He asked for a jury trial." *Associated Press, March 28, 1976*

GARDEN GROVE - "Psychic Zalitheia de Racan was not surprised at being arrested last November for fortunetelling --she claims to have seen the event in a vision weeks earlier."

"Zalitheia, operator of a licensed business in Garden Grove [California] called the Psychic Workshop, was arrested after accepting a donation of \$15 from two detectives posing as customers."

"...The Garden Grove law forbids fortunetellers to receive money 'directly or indirectly' for their services." *CSUF Daily Titan, March 26, 1976*

BERWYN, Ill. - "If you find a newspaper in a Berwyn, Ill., garbage can and pick it up to read, you'll be subject to a \$200 fine."

"Under an ordinance put into effect Aug. 2, it is now illegal to collect old newspapers in Berwyn without permission of the city council. Even plucking a newspaper from a garbage can to catch yesterday's news, or to save 15 cents is illegal. This law requires that papers be removed only by Berwyn's garbage collectors."

"Berwyn's City Clerk, Bob Pechos said that the law, 'is an infringement on my rights to do what I want with my newspaper. If I wish to allow someone to take my old newspaper from my garbage can, I defy anyone to arrest either the paper taker or me." *Chicago Tribune News Service, August 12, 1976*

"Gas stations operators who are serving their customers less but making more profit than they did on March 15, 1973 may be subject to fines of up to \$2,500 a day, according to the Internal Revenue Service." *Santa Ana Register, March 8, 1974*

OCEAN CITY, New Jersey - The Ocean City Tabernacle Association has hired two private detectives to enforce city 'Blue Laws.' They will look for businessmen selling forbidden Sunday sale items such as whole tomatoes (sliced are okay) or frozen dinners (cooked are okay). Under the law, movie theaters are required to close on Sunday. Liquor is not subject to any special Sunday ruling because it is forbidden the rest of the week.

One man has already been fined \$3000 and sentenced to 30 days in jail for selling an uncut cantaloupe and a bag of frozen French Fries.

Los Angeles Times, September 1, 1974

WASHINGTON - The FAA has ordered that commercial airplanes be fitted with a device that automatically plays a record 'Message of Comfort' just before the planes crashes. *National Review, March 28, 1975*

OKLAHOMA - Fourteen Indians in Oklahoma were convicted of selling bird feathers. *Wall Street Journal, June 24, 1974*

MILWAUKEE - A man in Milwaukee had a choice between paying his income taxes (\$1,252) or paying for medical help to save his life. He chose the medical help, and the IRS sued the hospital for the money claiming that the man should have paid the taxes. *San Diego Tribune, November 2, 1974*

RUSHING SPRINGS, Oklahoma - "...any dancing, even in private, is against the law in Rushing Springs, Oklahoma. Last year, residents banned dancing by a vote of 266-181. *Associated Press, January 27, 1975*

SAN DIEGO - A woman who collected \$8 a week for driving other people to work was fined \$500 for competing with the local bus company. *San Diego Tribune, April 16, 1975*

"Serving beer with pretzels is not permitted in public bars in North Dakota."

"In Lynn, Mass., it is illegal to give coffee to small children."

"Marrying your wife's grandmother is illegal in Kentucky."

"Laws in California, Idaho, North Dakota and Oklahoma forbid catching birds in cemeteries."

"Every man entering Phoenix, Ariz., must be dressed in pants, according to the law."

"In Hawaii, putting pennies in your ear is breaking the law."

"Eighty-year-old women in South Dakota are prohibited from speaking to young married men on the street."

"It is against the law in Wyoming to photograph a rabbit during the months of January through April unless you have an official permit."
Parada, April 25, 1976

In Lawrence, Kansas, a regulation against carrying bees around in your hat on city streets is on the books.

In Fountain Inn, South Carolina, a regulation requires horses to wear pants at all times.

The Trenton Pickle Ordinance And Other Bonehead Legislation, written by Dick Hyman

SALT LAKE - Children planning to build a treehouse in Salt Lake will have to conform to the building code. *San Diego Tribune, April 25, 1975*