

LIBERTAS REVIEW: a journal of peace and liberty

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MEDIA COVERS DEMONSTRATIONS

SLL HELPS KIRBY FIGHT EVICTION

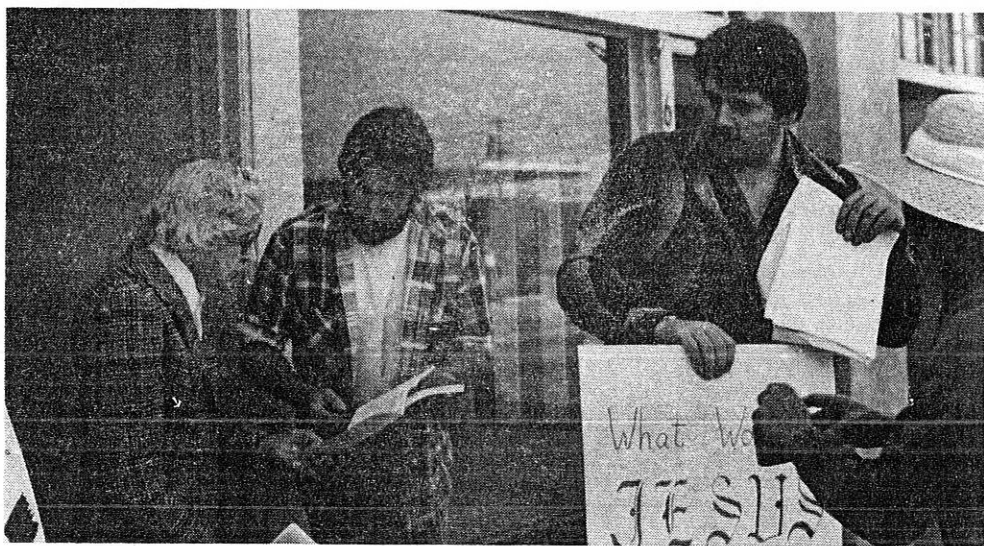
The SLL's involvement in a Long Beach, California eminent domain case has been termed a "success" by one of its leaders.

Brad Rodriguez, the SLL's Executive Director, said that the organization's involvement in the case of 86-year-old Bertha Kirby and her quadriplegic son, Roger, 56, allowed the two to receive a "more just" compensation for property, eventually taken by the city and a local church.

The Kirbys settled with local officials December 27--after a protracted legal battle, and five weeks of demonstrations by the SLL and other local groups.

The Kirby case had exemplified the current controversy surrounding local use of "eminent domain"--the forced acquisition by government, of private property for the "public good".

The Kirby family had lived in a downtown Long Beach neighborhood for more than 50 years. Since 1980, however, their existence had been troubled by a land-grab--engineered by a local church, city Housing Authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The plan: for a church affiliate to build a 100-unit senior housing residence, with the park-



Demonstrators join 86-year-old Bertha Kirby outside her embattled Long Beach, California home. (Photo by Sally Foster)

ing area located on the current Kirby property (all done with HUD financing).

Originally, the Housing Authority offered the Kirbys less than \$100,000 for a property privately appraised at three times that amount. The Kirbys had other reasons for staying--proximity to needed local services, and special facilities built for the crippled Roger. Also, they were no longer receiving income from their recently condemned storefront area.

After two years of legal hassles, public hearings, recent demonstrations, and media exposure--a settlement had been reached.

With the force of eviction necessitating their move, the Kirbys accepted an offer that will allow them to remain in their home--but with half their property removed, and the church owning what's left. They will receive \$225,000 and will be allowed to live rent-free for life.

"Our involvement was not a complete success because she did lose her property," Rodriguez said. "But we were able, through protests, to obtain a 'more just' compensation than she otherwise would have received.

"We did get a lot of publicity," Rodriguez added.

Continued on page

Gas Tax: A Giant Boondoggle

The Co-Chair of a local activist group has condemned the recently passed federal "gax tax" bill, saying that it will become "one of the great boondoggles in Washington history.

Howard Hinman, co-leader of the Fullerton-based Society for Libertarian Life, said at a recent press conference that the billions of dollars recently allocated to highway construction will not--in the long run--improve the nation's roads, or employment outlook. In fact, Hinman said, both will be hurt.

"As far as proper road maintenance is concerned," he opined, "the only true solu-

tion would be to make the roads available for private ownership."

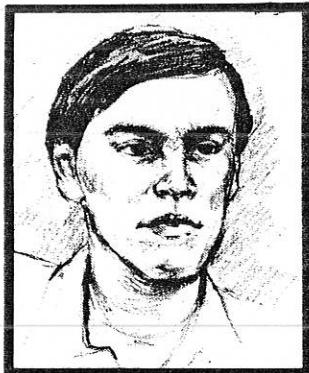
Through such an arrangement, Hinman said that motorists would pay for the roads directly, rather than through taxes on petroleum. Also, users could possibly be assessed directly for the damages inflicted by their vehicles.

"This way," Hinman stated, "the money is funneled through state governments, back to Washington. And with the pressures of feather-bedding and local politics, the money will be given back to the areas that scream the loudest."

Addressing the so-called "economic benefits" of the jobs to be provided for some 320,000 people--Hinman said the "true cost" of the new programs are not as obvious.

"In economics, we must also be aware of the effects of actions tht cannot be readily seen. It's true that we might see 320,000 jobs from this. But who knows how many jobs will be lost, due to the long-term impact of increased taxation?"

He said that motorists can show their displeasure with the tax by doing what they seem to be doing already--driving less.



Barry Turnbull

THROUGH ALL THE BULL

Readers of this publication have probably known it for a long time.

It has become more and more apparent every day--even to the point where a hard-headed journalist like myself could see it.

Still, it is something of a revelation--and its full understanding is essential to the preservation of human society.

The world has gone stark, raving mad.

A military weapon of war is called a peacekeeper. Yet men who want to keep the peace by avoiding conscription are branded as criminal OFFENDERS.

Somehow, politicians are screaming for more government influence to be the solution, and not the cause, of our massive economic problems.

We have thousands of publications and radio and television stations spewing out millions of words each day, in a supposed effort to "tell

us what it all means." And people who read the New York Times, and watch the CBS Evening News, pretend to be informed to the fullest extent of their intellect.

In reality, however, can the management of these information conglomerates really be interested in telling the whole story? Are they willing to rock the rather comfortable and lucrative boat that they share with those who govern us? I think not.

Speaking for my cohorts on the staff of this publication, I hope that the Libertas Review will remain a bastion of sanity in this increasingly crazy and depressing world around us. In future LR issues, I know that we will continue to cut through "all of the bull."



Brad Rodriguez

SLL ON-LINE

(This year, Time magazine named The Computer as their "Man of the Year". With this issue of Libertas Review, the SLL welcomes The Computer to the libertarian movement.)

During 1983, the Society for Libertarian Life will be shifting many of its operations to a computerized base. We will also inaugurate a number of new operations and activities, to more fully exploit the inherent capabilities of the computer. Our goal over the next few years is to bring the power of the computer to the SLL. This will be accomplished in four areas:

1. Data Processing. This is the "traditional" application of computers. The SLL mailing list and Libertas Review are already produced with computer aid. Soon these, and other functions, will be computerized to an even greater degree. Expanded word processing facilities will make form letters and mass mailings practical, and press releases faster and easier to produce. SLL product sales will be tracked and subjected to analysis, to help us evaluate our inventory and our marketing.

The result of this automation: SLL's current operations will continue with increased efficiency and lower costs.

2. Communications. Computerized information exchanges have long been popular among computer hobbyists. A user with a terminal (or access to one) can "dial up" the computer and discover the latest news, or all some news for others to read.

The SLL, too, is moving full force into digital communications. A computerized "bulletin board" will carry meeting announcements, news items, and advertisements. How about an event calendar, a list of supper club activities, or even a list of upcoming parties?

As more people use the system, we will add an "electronic mailbox", where public and private messages may be left and picked up. Ongoing discussions may even be conducted via computer. Eventually, the information exchange may become the fastest and most reliable "mail" in the libertarian community!

3. "Electronic LR". When libertarians have computers, they can be used not only for the production of Libertas Review, but for its distribution as well. The bulletin board, as mentioned, will be used to disseminate news. But the computer can also be used to hold and transmit arti-

cles, commentary, surveys--virtually any printed matter. And, since material can be added at any time, the "electronic LR" will be a fluid, continually changing, and always-up-to-date medium of expression.

4. Networking. This may prove to be the most significant application of the computer to the libertarian movement. We libertarians have vast resources, but they are scattered, disorganized, and for the most part, unknown. Imagine the value (to you) of a "libertarian yellow pages", or perhaps an "activist network" to find and coordinate our strongest resource: people. What about ridesharing, or a "crash pad" directory? Bartering, supper club and other event reservations, product orders, and (who knows?) a libertarian travel agency and underground credit services will all, eventually, be supported by computer. From the use of the computer as an information-sharing tool, it's only a small step to the use of the computer to share resources as well.

All of these projects presuppose some telecommunications capability on the part of you, the intended users. We expect that this capability will be common in the near future. With the prices of home computers decreasing, it will soon be in everyone's rational self-interest to computerize.

These are not idle speculations. A proposal is now being prepared to establish an SLL Computer Services Center, with all of the above-mentioned operations to be implemented by mid-1984.

COMING EVENTS**"FREE SPEECH FORUM" SLATED**

The following "Free Speech Forum" Supper Club events (all Sundays) will be held at the Two Guys From Italy restaurant, 445 Long Beach Boulevard, Long Beach; store phone (213) 432-0909. Event times: Dinner, 6:15 p.m.; Speech, 7:30 p.m.; Restaurant closes 9:00 p.m.

Prices for the following meals include entree, soup and salad bar, beverage (coffee, tea, milk or soft drink only--alcoholic drinks are extra), tax, tip and speech: Chicken Parmigiana, \$12.50; Spaghetti with meat sauce, \$9.50; Vegetarian Lasagna, \$11.25; Make-your-own salad bar and soup, \$8.25.

Reservations and Information: call Pam Maltzman at home, (213) 437-6081; or at work, (213) 487-4277, ext. 719; or leave a message at (213) 435-3492.

February 20: Dick Eagleson will speak on "Peace... and Other Hypothetical Objects."

March 20: Longtime activist Sandy Nelson will speak, no title confirmed at press time.

More on Kirby

Continued from page 1

(Most local television stations and newspapers provided at least intermittent coverage of the case.)

As a result, Rodriguez has announced that the SLL will instigate a petition drive to abolish the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency. "It will make it difficult for the churches and city councils to pull this kind of stunt again. Our involvement also proves that we can successfully co-operate in an effort with other libertarian groups and activists."

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The Libertas Statement

We, as libertarians, affirm:

That full individual liberty is impossible in any society other than a voluntary one that agrees upon no one:

That men and women require the full and independent use of their own judgement in order to survive at an optimum level, and therefore have a natural right to do their own thing, providing that they do not physically 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 area is one that does not interfere with free trade between consenting individuals;

THEREFORE, we as libertarians, resolve to oppose all forms of aggression by any State, Government, self-appointed savior, individual or association of individuals. We further resolve to oppose taxation, conscription, eminent domain, laws which create victimless "crimes," and all programs forced onto individuals without their consent. It is time that the chains of authoritarianism in economics and morality be broken. Individual rights and coercion cannot co-exist. Liberty cannot be compromised, and we will settle for no less than *freedom in our time*.

May 5, 1973

LIBERTAS REVIEW

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