

LIBERTAS REVIEW

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LIBERTAS REVIEW

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STOP PARAQUAT

One of the more successful projects of Society for Libertarian Life is its campaign to "Stop Paraquat Spraying." Not only is the issue important to anyone who smokes marijuana, but important to anyone who values individual liberty.

In the first place, it has been reported that a number of deaths have resulted from smoking paraquat sprayed marijuana. The government is indirectly killing the citizens it is supposed to protect. However, this is not new.

When the U.S. government tried to legislate morality in the 1920's with the Prohibition Amendment, thousands of Americans died. *Libertarian Review* magazine, which is published in San Francisco, recently brought to light that our government poisoned alcohol with methanol meant for industrial use. Just in 1925 alone, over 4,100 Americans died from the poisoned alcohol. This led humorist Will Rogers to say: "Government used to murder by bullet only. Now it's by the quart." We could now say that government kills by the kilo.

Secondly, the U.S. government is financing the paraquat program in Mexico. Around \$40 million of taxpayers' money has been spent to buy this deadly herbicide as well as train pilots. It could be said that we are paying for our own funerals.

We expect this issue to become hot because it is an issue of life and death. It takes years before symptoms begin to show. And it does not take much smoking of paraquat marijuana to scar lung tissues which may eventually lead to death.

We have developed a "Stop Paraquat Spraying" (SPS) kit. The kit includes petitions, a sign to be placed next to the petitions to encourage people to sign and our famous "Thank You Jimmy" cards which is shown above. This kit is free to anyone for the asking. We encourage people to write to SLL for these kits; and we have found records shops to be a most favorite spot to distribute petitions and cards.

NEW FORMAT, AGAIN

We did it again. We changed our format. The small booklet format was just too costly. Perhaps in a few years our income will allow a more expensive format. However, to remain in the black, we must go to a news-letter format. These savings will assure a quarterly *Libertas Review* since we have not always met our quarterly obligations in the past.

Presently, we mail out around 1,300 *Libertas Review* copies every edition. Several years ago our mailing list was under one hundred. We now employ a computer to

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**REVIEW OF LEFEVRE SPEECH
REPORT ON STATELESS FIRM**

assist us. Jim Gallagher, our new Computer Director, has been most instrumental in changing SLL over to a computerized system. We could not possibly do a quarterly mass mailing without Gallagher and his knowledge of computers.

We would also like to receive short letters to the editor from our readers. We did not solicit or publish letters to the editor in the past for a number of reasons. But that policy has changed.

GUESS WHAT?

A funny thing happened on the way to the U.S. Post Office. Our last edition (spring) of *Libertas Review* was a little late in arriving to our members and supporters, especially for those who wanted to attend LeFevre's speech. However, *Libertas Review* was mailed on May 1 in order to reach our readers by LeFevre's May 19 speech. We were assured that the mailing would take no longer than seven to nine days at the most.

However, since we have a non-profit mail permit via California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), our mailings are more complicated. We understand this and we watch our mailing process very closely. We sent members of our SLL staff down to both the CSUF and main Post Office. Again, we were told that the mailing went out. As the speech approached, we became uneasy since no one reported to have received our journal. More trips to the Post Office and more assurances were given.

It was not until May 19, the day of the speech, that we were informed that our mailing was held back on some technicality and was sitting on some Post Office floor in Los Angeles. Since half of our readers come from the Orange and Los Angeles County area, we all of a sudden got the feeling that few would turn out for LeFevre's speech. If there were ever a day best suited for the world to end in one fiery flash, it had to be May 19.

Still, the speech went on as scheduled and around 80 eager listeners heard LeFevre give an excellent speech. We were rather surprised at the turn-out.

In the future, we plan to be even more watchful of the Post Office and we expect this situation to never occur again. Cross your fingers.

Thank You!

Thank you Jimmy Carter for contaminating my marijuana, body and life with paraquat. It was so nice of you to try to protect me from myself and my lifestyles. In the future, please try not to be so considerate.

You will find enclosed my gift of appreciation-- some marijuana that I know or suspect of being sprayed with paraquat. Since you are supposed to be looking out after my well-being, I invite you to test my pot yourself. After all, what's good for me is surely good for you. However, if you do contract something, just remember that people must be responsible for their actions-- including you.

Thank you again, Jimmy. I will always remember you and your little herbicidal gift, especially during the next presidential election.

Sincerely Anonymous,

Mail to: Mr. Carter, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500
SOCIETY FOR LIBERTARIAN LIFE.

SLL NOTES

Lefevre's Speech

Robert Lefevre spoke to a crowd of 80 persons at Santa Ana College on May 19 (see article on Lefevre speech)...SLL was one of the sponsors of a lecture by Prof. Charles Baird at Cypress. Baird is now on our Advisory Board. He teaches economics at Cal State Univ., Hayward. His lecture was on the myths of the Industrial Revolution...We have new officers: Corresponding Sec.— Pamela Falk (a student at CSUF), Treasurer—Dean Stephens, Editor of *Libertas Review*—Howard Hinman, Jim Gallagher—Computer Director and Jeff Smith—Membership Director...New posters printed: "Rulers" a very good quote by Lao Tsu in 600 B.C. concerning why people are starving--taxation; why people are rebellious--Govt. interference; and why people think so little of death-- "Because the rulers demand too much of life." (\$2.50 each)...Another poster is in our mini-poster series: It is the "Wanted: The State- for crimes against the individual." Shows Uncle Sam in his famous pose (25¢ each). Another one states "This Plant Is Still A Felony" which deals with marijuana as just a simple plant of nature and is not a crime to smoke it (25¢ each)...New bumperstickers (black on white adhesive) "Govt. Is The Cause- Not The Solution" and "Harass Your Local Politician" (75¢ each)...We will have a new-8 page catalog out by Oct. which will have many new educational material fliers and products. (Note: prices will go up in new catalog due to the BIG increase in 3rd class mail.)...New position papers: "The Case for Privatizing Protective Services" by Jim Gallagher and one on Women's rights by Judi Barnes...Howard Hinman and a number of SLL members are working with the clothes-optional and nude beach movement in Southern California...We have gotten very good response from our anti-paraquat campaign.

Robert Lefevre always does an excellent job at the lecture podium. Last May 19 speech at Santa Ana College was no exception. The speech entitled "Does Government Protection Protect" drew a crowd of 80 listeners.

Some of Lefevre's best highlights were reported by Santa Ana College newspaper editor Dean Lyon. This is rather a drastic change from last years article on Lefevre which indicated that Lefevre was some type of religious rabble rouser.

Anyway, Lefevre contends that "Governments have never really said that they are going to protect us." Lefevre defines protection as a feeling of being safe. "Protected you are safe and nothing happens to you," Lefevre said in the two and a half hour lecture.

"Governments have provided us with laws of retaliation, not laws of protection." Lefevre contends that these are laws of vengeance and therefore governmentsent overlook preventive means to discourage and prevent criminal acts. "Retaliation is as far removed from protection as competition is from monopoly. They are mutually exclusive terms," he said.

The type of government protection a citizen receives is usually not what the citizen really wants. Lefevre said that "retaliation is made up of punishment; something inflicted by authority," and restitution is "something taken away is retored." As for defense, Lefevre said this is something "to curtail (a form of combat)." But this is not what the citizen wants. The citizen wants to feel safe and does not want to be involved with retaliation, restitution or defense because this means that a crime has been committed against his person and property. "All of those things are undesirable; what you really want is protection," Lefevre said.

Displaying a number of large books produced for the FBI to show yearly crime statistics, Lefevre revealed some startling statistics. Lefevre showed that "Police are successful only 20 per cent of the time. In 1970, 2,169,000 burglaries were reported, 19 per cent were solved, 9 per cent were convicted and 3 per cent of the criminals served out or are still serving time. Meaning if you were a criminal you have an 81 per cent chance of not getting caught, 91 per cent chance of not being convicted and a 97 per cent chance of not serving out the term if convicted.

Those are better odds than you can get in Vegas if you won the casino."

Lefevre warned that he is not against the police. It is just they do the best they can do under the present system.

Next, Lefevre centers on the system. Police have a difficult time catching criminals because, "crooks do not perform for police audiences. They (the police) wear distinct uniforms, carry noisemakers and flashing lights." This is why the only person who usually witness crime is the criminal himself.

"Protection is easier and more effective than retaliation," Lefevre said. "Stop the terrible things before they happen." Commenting further, "ours is a system that is so bad that as you improve it it gets worse."

Lefevre has said for years that governments do not know the difference between a free man and a criminal. Under government protection, "The police are hired to keep an eye on taxpayers as potential criminals," he said. The police are hired to enforce the changing laws of state or federal legislators and agencies. These laws do not necessarily protect the citizen from criminal acts.

Lefevre contends that government protection gives more protection to criminals and less safety to citizens. In fact, he shows that government is really no better than a small-time hood. "The government rips people off

NEW BUTTONS



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These are some of the new buttons of Society for Libertarian Life. They go for 1 to 5 buttons 70¢ each, 6 to 20 buttons 60¢ each, 21 to 100 buttons 45¢ each.

All of the buttons shown are 2 and 3/4 inches wide and come in various colors. We have many more buttons listed in our catalog. Please write for our catalog. This is a very good way to introduce your friends to libertarianism as well as assisting a libertarian organization.

to get together the money to keep people from getting ripped off."

As for an alternative to government protection, LeFevre suggested that citizens should stop paying taxes for protection and invest the money instead into the protective devices and services of their choice. Protective methods like dead bolt locks, barred windows, burglar alarms, private security guards and other methods would be far more efficient and less expensive when compared to public protection.

In closing, LeFevre said that "There is bound to be an increase in crime as long as the legislature is still in session." And "Government cannot act unless it is violating boundaries, otherwise it has nothing to do."

SLL plans to have LeFevre's speech published in November.

STATELESS FIRMS

The apolitical libertarian has always opposed political parties and politics as the means to increase liberty. The alternative to politics has been something called "Counter-Economics." This approach would eliminate the need for politics and free the economy through privatization of government services.

Counter-economics would ignore the State. People would trade and sell without informing the government of their activities. More or less, counter-economics is something similar to the black market. However, unlike the black market, it will operate in full view of the government, ready to defend itself from government regulations and laws.

One such facet of counter-economics is a program called "Stateless Firms." This is more than an idea. Since May 1, 1978, it has become fact. Organized by Anthony L Hargis & Co., a fast-print shop called Morningrise Printing is flourishing in Costa Mesa, California.

Morningrise Printing (1525 Mesa Verde Dr. E, Costa Mesa, CA (714) 957-8494) has no city business license, no registered resale number, no collection of state taxes and no withholding of income tax and social security. The business has stockholders and accepts payments in gold or silver.

It was a question of when a confrontation would occur. On May 19 a Costa Mesa city official informed the manager of Morningrise Printing (Jane McLaughlin) that she needed a business license. Ms. McLaughlin refused to fill out a business license form. A few days later the police threatened McLaughlin and Hargis with a five-day jail sentence if they could not prove they were legally leasing the shop premises. The landlord identified both McLaughlin and Hargis and the police departed.

The next day two police officers and two city agents entered Morningrise Printing and issued a traffic citation to McLaughlin for violation of city code 9-61 CMMC which requires every business to have a business license. The police threatened to jail McLaughlin if she refused to sign the citation.

The case has gone to court with the help of a local libertarian attorney - Ray Hendrickson. So far, the case is still in court. However, to halt harassment of city officials, Morningrise Printing sent the city a price list. Morningrise said it would charge the city for every telephone call, visit and other harassment which cost Morningrise money. Also, the stateless firm sent an invoice to the city for "harassment and emotional destruction" already caused. Morningrise says they have not been telephoned or visited since.

The idea of stateless firms is discussed in Anthony Hargis's book called *Law vs. Freedom* (\$2.50) which can be bought through Morningrise Printing or Liberty Books in Mountain View, California.

Stateless firms can be extremely successful. Already, the firm is planning on opening another printing shop in Orange County. There is possibly no better way to resist government and make a profit than through stateless firms. All we can say is, it's about time.

PRIVATIZING

Prof. Murray Rothbard in *For A New Liberty* was one of the first academicians to advocate privatization of the protective and judicial systems. Many have argued that the free market is incapable of handling such important matters. However, privatization of the courts is not just theory, at least not to Carl E. Person (Chief Judge) of the National Private Court (132 Nassau St., New York, NY 10038).

The National Private Court is offering "a low-cost three-month litigation package to individuals and corporations interested in suing each other with minimum expense." Person said that he decided to form his own profit-making court system because the public court system is clogged and is heading toward collapse.

In another related story, Richard L. Mitchell in the *Los Angeles Times* wrote that prisons could be based on private enterprise. "Prisons as now structured simply do not attract the kind of innovative professionals who can create new ways of doing things. For better or worse, talent gravitates in our society towards profit," Mitchell said (a former chief program administrator of the New York Dept. of Correctional Services).

Mitchell proposes that the government contract out to private prisons. The private prison would receive a base annual rate per inmate. The base annual rate could change upward or downward depending on efficiency, prison violence and abuse.

It should be no contest. Prisons and the courts are run like any other governmental operation -- inefficiently.

(*L.A. Times*, Feb. 7, 1978)

THE LIQUOR WAR

Competition always brings out better prices and products. A good example of this can be seen at any liquor store. For years, the state of California has regulated the price of liquor. Liquor dealers were prohibited by California law to sell liquor below a certain minimum price. Dealers could sell liquor at any high price they wanted to, but could not lower the price.

However, a state Supreme Court decision has declared minimum price fixing as unconstitutional. The 1939 statute was struck down when Christine and Richard Corsetti were caught selling liquor at below minimum price laws. Corsetti admitted that he was doing this for three years in his San Francisco store.

The court said that, "The California consumer pays more than the residents of any other state for alcoholic beverages because of the fair trade laws."

"Liquor distributors reap the benefit of these high prices," the court further commented.

It has been estimated that liquor prices will be reduced from 15 to 20 per cent.

The reason behind these fair trade laws was to prevent cut-throat competition. But to protect the store owner from competition must hurt someone else—the consumer. Every piece of legislation is designed to assist one special interest group. But to do so is to hurt another special interest group. When the government helps the farmer or the rancher, those who use those products (along with the taxpayer) must suffer.

It is true that some Mom and Pop liquor stores will be out of business, but a company must remain responsive to consumer wishes or waste and high prices will result. For government to protect the businessman is to insure high prices and low efficiency. No one remains efficient if they do not have any reason (like remaining in business) to do so.

Two years ago, then-Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post estimated that liquor price controls were costing Californians \$81 million a year.



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SHORTS

Barbara Hutchinson ran for San Diego County Assessor and listed her occupation as "Tax Protester." She only spent \$19 in her campaign and appeared twice at campaign rallies. Despite her lack of campaigning, she received 140,253 votes, 425 behind the frontrunner, incumbent Assessor E.C. Williams. Ms. Hutchinson, a libertarian, said she was really running for "lesser assessor."

This gives some idea how strong pro-Proposition 13 feeling was running in California. (AP June 9, 1978)

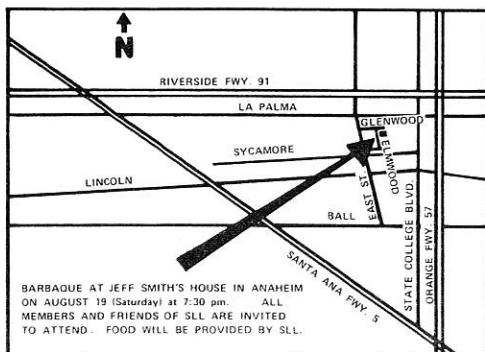
According to AP, "The biggest generator of federal paperwork is the Internal Revenue Service which accounts for 78 per cent of the hours which the public spends dealing with public forms." (AP June 22, 1978)

In Palo Alto, California the City Council passed a law which banned all moving signs. This would have included the red and white barber poles until a barber protested and refused to turn off their poles. The city council backed off and decided to exclude barber poles from the ordinance. (AP June 16, 1977)

Three of the most asinine and absurd programs to waste the taxpayers' money, according to Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), were \$103,000 spent to study whether fish that drink tequilla are more aggressive than fish that drink gin; \$46,000 spent to find out how long it takes to cook breakfast; and \$27,000 spent to determine why inmates want to escape from jail. (Family Weekly, July 9, 1978)

FREE BARBECUE

Society for Libertarian Life is hosting a summer barbecue (informal) at Jeff Smith's house at 618 Elmwood Street in Anaheim at 7:00 pm. SLL will provide food and anyone who receives this journal is welcome to attend along with several friends or a date. Also, the Smiths have a backyard pool. For more information call Jeff at (714) 776-8164.



SPEECH BY KONKIN

Samuel Konkin III will speak on "Counter-Economics vs. Gradualism" on August 25 (Friday) at 8:00 pm at Laguna Federal Savings & Loan, 2535 N. Tustin in the city of Orange (see map below).

Konkin is the editor of the monthly publication *New Libertarian* which was formerly known as *New Libertarian Weekly*. Konkin's libertarian activities began in 1969 at the St. Louis convention of the conservative Young Americans for Freedom. Konkin was a delegate from Wisconsin under the leadership of David Keene. At the convention, Konkin met Dana Rohrabacher and Bill Steel who were organizing the Libertarian Caucus.

When the Libertarian Caucus broke from YAF Konkin followed to organize the short-lived Wisconsin Libertarian Alliance. A few years later, he started a publication called *Laissez-Faire!* in New York. A little later the publication was changed to *New Libertarian Notes*. During this time, Konkin received his Masters degree in Theoretical-Chemistry at New York University in 1973.

In 1975, Konkin and his magazine staff moved to Long Beach, California and published *New Libertarian Weekly* for two solid years.

Konkin has also been involved with the Student Libertarian Action Movement (SLAM) which is based in Arizona. SLAM has been billed as a left-right coalition of libertarians. During the early years of the Libertarian Party, Konkin was a leader of the Radical Caucus of the Libertarian Party. The Radical Caucus controlled 20 to 30 per cent of the New York Libertarian Party. The main objective of the Radical Caucus was to dismantle the Libertarian Party. Konkin is the originator of the term "Counter-Economics" and is one of the strongest opponents of all political parties, especially the Libertarian Party.

The speech is open to the public and admission is free of charge.

