
SHOW ME FREEDOM

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Fall 1999

Harry Browne campaigns for president in St. Louis

Report by Ken Bush

Sharply cooler weather, rain, and the heavy crush of traffic from a nearby Cardinal baseball game were no deterrent to the big turnout for Harry Browne in St. Louis on September 28. Browne was Libertarian's national presidential candidate in 1996, and he's campaigning again to be the LP candidate next year in 2000. If he succeeds he'd be the first candidate to be nominated twice. Brown's stop at the ritzy Adams Mark Hotel, next door to the Gateway Arch, was part of a 3-day, 3-stop tour.



Dick Illyes, (right) a business owner from St. Louis County, visits with Browne about Illyes' planned run for Missouri governor.

Photo by Ken Bush

The event was not a general public speech as much as a pitch to libertarian activists to urge them to become official card-

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What will be your legacy?

Why you should run in 2000

By Jim Higgins, Recruitment Chair

No, I am not talking about Bill and Hillary Clinton. I am talking about you and the Libertarian party. What will be your legacy and what legacy will the Libertarian party leave at the turn of the millennium?

Historians of the future will look back and analyze trends at the end of the second millennium. How will they view the Libertarian Party? You have a chance to influence what they will say, and at the same time include your name as part of that legacy. The start of the millennium will be a fresh beginning. With your help it will be a fresh beginning for the Libertarian Party.

The national Libertarian Party has a goal of 2000 candidates or about 40 candidates per state. However, many states do not have party status and run only a presidential candidate. That means states with party ballot status like Missouri need to have more than 40 candidates to bring the average up. In past few election cycles Missouri has run around 50 candidates. However, many of them have run every election cycle since '92. They need a break. Can you pitch in and help carry the ball?

Already we have a Governor candidate and most of the congressional candidates lined up. Commitments are tentative for US Senate and Lt. Governor. Candidates are being sought for Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Attorney general. Plus there are 17 state senate seats up for reelection, and all 163 state representative seats.

More than one Libertarian can file for the same office. If that happens then the August primary will determine who will be the Libertarian candidate in the November general election. Contested primaries help the LP also. They generate interest and attention to the party and they show that we have depth.

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carrying LP members and, of course, to select Browne as next year's Libertarian presidential candidate. Party delegates from each state will vote at the nominating convention over the forth of July weekend in Santa Anna, California. Missouri delegates will be chosen at the annual state convention, which will take place next June in St. Charles.

The St. Louis event was well attended by Libertarians across eastern Missouri and southern Illinois. During his speech Browne repeated his great Libertarian offer: "would you give up your favorite federal program if you could be free of income taxes forever?" He quipped that the most frequent answer to this question from people in the street is "I can't think of any favorite federal program."

Browne nimbly demonstrated how he'd answer questions on the campaign trail – Libertarian answers to many of the controversies in the news. But like a press conference of media hounds, the astute Libertarian audience didn't give Browne the typical pep rally, peppering Browne with wide ranging questions -- from abortion to the degree of necessary minimal taxation and how it's to be collected; and from immigration to the minimum amount of U.S. military defense required to keep the country secure.

Browne had on hand a small entourage of campaign assistants and even a video crew. "Browne and his team clearly demonstrated that he is the front-runner to be Libertarians' next standard bearer in 2000," opined audience member, Mike Chestnut, former St. Louis City LP candidate for alderman.

Remarked St. Louis activist Lloyd Sloan, "He spoke for roughly 45 minutes, and I was impressed by his closing. He wears a lapel pin of the statue of liberty, and he referred to it quoting a poem from Emma Lazarus with tears in his eyes. It was the most passionate speech I have seen from Browne. He has raised \$750,000 and plans to make a 30-minute network television show to air in February. A Browne candidacy looks assured with this sort of cash on hand."

After his speech and the question period, Browne visited informally with local activists, including St. Louis County Chair Dick Illyes who is planning a run for Missouri governor in 2000. As he prepared to leave, it was discovered that due to a mixup his video crew didn't have a ride to the next campaign stop in Kentucky. Former MoLP statewide officer and current executive committee member, Steve Schaper of St. Louis City, volunteered to take off work and drive them and their equipment! ❖

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: JJ'S RESTAURANT ON THE SOUTH SERVICE ROAD IN O'FALLON.

TIME: FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

Note that due to a scheduling conflict, November's meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10 instead of the first Thursday. Call 922-0570 for details.

JACKSON COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: TORRE'S PIZZA IN THE WESTPORT SECTION OF KC

TIME: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 6:30 P.M. FOR DINNER, SPEAKER AT 7

Next meeting is on November 17. Call 383-7777. A holiday-themed program is planned for December 15.

ST. LOUIS CITY COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: LOCATION VARIES, CALL 997-8585 FOR INFORMATION

TIME: THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17.

EASTERN MISSOURI LIBERTARIAN CLUB MEETING

PLACE: STRATFORD INN, FENTON

TIME: THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 P.M. (OR ARRIVE EARLIER FOR DINNER & SOCIALIZING)

The club includes Libertarians from St. Louis County, St. Louis City, and Jefferson County. The next meeting will be held on November 19. Call 997-8585 for program details.

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

PLACE: MONROE PLAZA HOTEL, JEFFERSON CITY

TIME: THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 1 PM

The next meeting will be held on November 21. A breakfast buffet is available prior to the meeting.

MISSOURI LIBERTARIAN PARTY STATE CONVENTION

PLACE: HOLIDAY INN ST. CHARLES/ST. PETERS

TIME: JUNE 2-4, 2000

It's not too early to start planning to attend next year's state convention. Accommodations are \$72/night for doubles.

The convention committee is already at work contacting potential speakers, so look forward to an awesome event. You'll meet Libertarian candidates for office from around the state. Representatives to the National LP/Presidential Nominating Convention in July will be elected.

THE 2000 ELECTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RUNNING

from the County Chair Manual by LaDonna Higgins

FEDERAL OFFICES

In 2000, Missouri will elect a U. S. Senator (John Ashcroft is the incumbent). A candidate for senator must be at least 30 years old and have held U.S. citizenship for nine years. Missouri will also elect representatives to serve in all nine congressional districts. Candidates must be at least 25 years old and a U.S. citizen for at least seven years. The filing fee for U.S. Senate is \$200 and \$100 for Representative.

STATE OFFICES

For statewide office, Missourians will elect a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Treasurer. The filing fee to run for a statewide office is \$200.

Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor must be at least 30 years old, U.S. citizens for at least 15 years and residents of Missouri for at least 10 years. Candidates for Secretary of State must be at least 25 years old and Missouri residents for at least one year. The Treasurer must be a U.S. citizen and a Missouri resident for one year. The Attorney General must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a Missouri resident for one year.

All state representative and the odd state senate districts will be up for election. State representatives must be at least 24 years old, a Missouri resident for two years, and a district resident for one year. State senators must be at least 30 years old, a Missouri resident for three years, and a district resident for one year. State senators serve a four year term, while state representatives serve a two year term. The filing fee for state senate candidates is \$100; for state representative candidates, \$50.

HOW TO FILE

To file to run for any of these positions, go to the Secretary of State's office in Jefferson City, file a declaration of candidacy, and pay a filing fee. Note that the fee is forwarded to the MoLP. A paid receipt from the treasurer of the MoLP (Doug Pado) may be presented as proof that the filing fee has been paid.

Candidates must file for these offices between Tuesday, February. 29 and Tuesday, March. 28, 2000 during regular office hours. ❖

Filing for office does not start until the last week of February but please make a commitment to run now. When you do please contact me, Jim Higgins via e-mail at higginslp@aol.com or monopoly snail mail at PO Box 3231, St. Louis, MO 63130.

We can live in society free from political privilege and bureaucratic harassment. Please join in and help make it happen. ❖

Who's Running?

The following Libertarians are at least considering running for the offices indicated:

For US Senate: Grant Stauffer; for Governor: Dick Illyes; for Lt. Governor: Jeanne Bojarski.

For Congress: #1 Tamara Millay, #2 Jim Higgins, #3 Mike Crist, #4 Thomas Knapp, #7 Mike Harmon, #8 John Hendricks, #9 Robert Hoffman.

For State Representative: # 15 Dean Hodge, #29 Kevin Wisneski, # 82 Arnold Trembly, and #156 Mary Nall ❖



MoLP will receive \$25,000

Former MoLP treasurer Karl Wetzel (pictured above) died unexpectedly last February. Because he left no relatives, local Libertarians were proactive in helping to arrange his memorial service. They diplomatically gained access to his apartment to retrieve party records. They also rescued personal effects from the County Administrator's office and for a small sum carted off boxes of books, which were later auctioned at the state convention held in Kansas City last May.

However, the proceeds from those books were far from all that Wetzel left to the MoLP.

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News Briefs

SEMO District Fair

Report by Greg Tlapek

The Cape County LP has a booth at the South Eastern Missouri (SEMO) District Fair again this year, our sixth annual. The Nalls of Bolinger County also had a booth geared more towards adults and located inside. Two booths at one fair! The Ds and Rs better look out.

This was our second year to offer free membership. We picked up 272 new members, which brings our total to 772 card carrying members in Cape Girardeau County. Of the new members, half are between the ages of 13-15 and the rest are mostly older. We now have four nine-year old members.

What does a nine-year-old know? At least four of them know they like the Libertarian Party. Young people from the parochial schools are under represented in our number. In the public school system, I can fairly accurately estimate that 1 in 5 students in grades 6-8 has an LP membership card. ❖

Know somebody who might join the party if they received an information packet and invitation? Submit the name at www.lp.org/lp-for-members.html. Click on the Prospective Names button. You may also submit address changes from this page.

Free Membership-- Grow the MoLP

Report by Greg Tlapek

You don't have to pay a membership fee to be a Republican or Democrat. Now you don't have to pay one in order to be a card-carrying Libertarian, either.

The free membership motion was passed by the state committee. A free membership includes a bumper sticker, a Missouri Libertarian Party (MoLP) membership card and three free issues of Show Me Freedom (SMF).

If someone wants to continue receiving SMF, be an official member of the National Libertarian Party (NLP), and receive the monthly LP news, the joint MoLP/NLP membership is still available for \$25. ❖

Interested in becoming a FREE member of the Missouri Libertarian Party? Call toll-free from anywhere in the state: 1-877-VOTE-4-US.

Libertarian Travels

Report by Roy Lieberman

I'm back from a terrific week of sightseeing: from the Advocates for Self-Government's 15th Anniversary Party in Atlanta, Ga., to Jefferson's home Monticello ("little mountain") in Charlottesville, Va., to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Everybody who loves Thomas Jefferson should go see his amazing home, the only house in America on the World Heritage list. It's a week I'll never forget. ❖

"The oppressed should rebel, and they will continue to rebel and raise disturbance until their civil rights are fully restored to them and all partial distinctions, exclusions and incapacitation's are removed."
Thomas Jefferson

Prospect Mailing Planned

Report by Bob Sullentrup

In the works is a fundraising letter to prominent St. Louisans. Sara Cotham, executive director of the Indiana LP, has been helping edit the letter and providing invaluable advice.

The letter not only talks about Libertarian positions on issues, but also includes pictures and brief notes about well-known libertarians. We hope to get the letter out within a couple of weeks and have good news to report in the next issue. ❖

Like the New Look?

Report by Editor Jeanne Bojarski

We hope you noticed the new format of this "Fall" issue. The Winter issue may bring even more changes. The plan is to upgrade the newsletter as a service to our members -- and mail it quarterly in order to make more of our budget available for fundraising and special projects. ❖

Showing Us

Report by Hugh Emerson

Starting in January statewide candidates in Missouri will have to use the state's electronic reporting system to file campaign finance reports. That means anyone with access to the Internet will be able for the first time to punch in the name of a statewide candidate and see a list of donors. If the system works as planned, viewers will also be able to pull up lists of donors by zip codes or occupation, according to a September 26 story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. ❖

Campaign Focus: Just Say No to T.I.F.

Ken Bush, Jeanne Bojarski, and Grant Stauffer
contributed to this article

Tussle in Olivette

Citizens in Olivette, MO are striking back. A growing number of residents there oppose the use of Tax Increment Financing, known as TIF, that would force all Olivette taxpayers to subsidize a big new Wal-Mart/Sam's Club. The eighty-acre complex would be located on eighty acres in the heart of that humble community, wiping out about 300 homes.

This issue has been dogging city of Olivette in central west St. Louis County for over two years. Despite the resources of a multibillion-dollar corporation, Walmart is asking for a near \$40-50 million tax "loan"/subsidy from Olivette – and the city council has thus far been obliging. Until recently, many of the homeowners in the immediate buyout area were cooperative too. After all, they stood to get money well over the standard market appraisal for their property -- until recently.

Over the past few month the proposed amount of TIF to be lavished on the developer has been lessened by about \$10 million, so the developer in turn wants to give the homeowners less money. Some of them are turning against the deal because of the reduced buyout. Others feel that the issue has been hanging over their heads too long (at least two years) and that they just want to keep their homes and neighborhoods.

What about the rest of the Olivette community? A growing number of them have taken matters into their own hands by forming "The Committee to Repeal the TIF." In early Autumn they began an old-fashioned grassroots petition drive to put the TIF proposal and any future ones before voters in referendums. And because the city council initially agreed and then declined to put it on the ballot there is now a separate recall petition to boot out the entire city council. The group filed both petitions with Olivette authorities on October 22.

Growing Opposition to TIF Itself

Remarkably, a driving force behind these rebels is not just this particular proposal but the ethical nature of TIF itself. And nothing embodies this ethical concern better than their latest creation: an anti-TIF bumper sticker: The four-inch square bumper sticker features a bright yellow background with the

letters "TIF" enclosed in a red circle with a slash through the letters. It's an eye-catching generic Stop Sign to stop TIFs and complements standard Libertarian bumperstickers.

The group has also produced a blown up version for a yard sign that's the same size as a "For Sale" sign. In fact, growing numbers of them continue to sprout up all over Olivette lawns and right-of-ways.

Libertarian Ken Bush (who lives a few hundred feet from the Olivette border) recently spoke to anti-TIF members at one of their weekly meetings along with Ray Hartmann, founder of The Riverfront Times. Hartmann told the crowd that he opposed most TIFs because such corporate subsidies should only be used in poor inner-city neighborhoods, not in prosperous communities such as Olivette. In contrast, Bush explained that as a libertarian he opposed the use of all TIFs. He got a round of applause when he dubbed TIF "Theft Increment Financing." And laughter erupted when he noted that as a Libertarian he encourages private entrepreneurship and development but that he firmly believes "in a Separation of Development and State."

You can show Libertarian support for the Olivettes by ordering a few of their eye-catching generic anti-TIF bumper stickers. To purchase send a donation (money order) of \$3 for 1 or \$5 for 3 to Anti-TIF Stickers, 193 Stoneleigh Towers, Olivette, MO 63132-3716. Call the St. Louis Area Hotline: (314) 997-8585 for on-going news about the Olivette movement, to volunteer to help, or to request a yard sign.

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An Ideal Issue for Libertarians

Bush observed that opposition to TIF in a community typically focuses on the details of a particular project -- unless there are Libertarians involved. In Olivette there is a growing objection to the underlying premise of corporate subsidies itself. Bush reports, "At last there's widespread questioning of the unethical underpinnings of corporate-government cooperation, or should I say 'conspiracy'?"

"Opposition to TIF in principle is a campaign issue Libertarians can use to scoop other parties. It's one of the rare positions on which Libertarians can find themselves appealing to both left Liberals who oppose corporate welfare and right conservatives who support a free market."

Ken Bush quips about TIF:

Don't be afraid to state: "We libertarians fight for true free enterprise and therefore believe in a Separation of Development and State."

*Call TIF by what it really means:
"Theft Increment Financing"*

Don't hesitate to insist: "We need to blight blighting and eminent domain laws away from private developers."

Tell it like it is: "When libertarians say we stand for free enterprise, we mean it. Corporate bigwigs tout free enterprise but practice blatant business welfare behind the scenes."

In fact, Libertarian activists have taken the lead in opposing TIF proposals across the state for the last 10 years. That's when Mike D'Hoodge founded the Bridgeton Air Defense (or BAD) committee to oppose the expansion of the St. Louis Airport into Bridgeton -- a use of eminent domain that will wipe out a thousand homes, businesses and schools, representing a quarter of the Bridgeton community.

Not long after that, Grant Stauffer of Kansas City became the representative Libertarian in a grassroots effort by neighborhood organizations to oppose the midtown "Glover Plan." At a critical city council meeting the group rejoiced when the proposal failed by a single vote -- only to find that after they left another round of voting passed the plan. A neighborhood of 300 homes and apartment buildings was destroyed at a cost to the taxpayers of over \$23 million plus

continuing interest payments on the bonds. After over a half-dozen years, groundbreaking on the project has yet to begin.

More recently, Libertarians were essential in helping a group of business owners gather signatures to get the downtown Kansas City "Centertainment" TIF proposal on the ballot. With almost \$500 million in subsidies at stake, the proponents did not hesitate to spend \$1 million to promote the project. The opposition lost the public vote, but the business owners are still hanging on to their property due to delays in recruiting a developer for a project even the proponents' own consultant concluded was uneconomical.

Is the Tide Turning?

There have been successful opposition efforts. Bill Wayne of Warrensburg, Libertarian candidate for Johnson County Executive in 1998, leveraged his standing in the community to defeat a TIF proposal for the county. Grant Stauffer a former president of his neighborhood association, did the same to help swing sentiment against a proposed TIF project for the Country Club Plaza. Even the most jaded citizen could hardly accept the premise that the ritzy Plaza was a "blighted" area requiring taxpayer subsidies!

As Bush points out, the tide may be turning. More citizens are realizing that as long as TIF exists, their property is not secure. Any developer can bribe a city council with campaign contributions to get your property condemned. They are coming to see that TIF subsidies reduce the funds available for basic services and recognize that subsidizing businesses often does not "create" any net economic development but simply puts competing businesses out of business.

Libertarian candidates and activists can help turn the tide. Join the movement. Just say "No" to TIF. ❖

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Wetzel named the Libertarian Party as the beneficiary of a \$50,000 life insurance policy. At the last Executive Committee meeting, Chair Jim Givens announced that the National LP will split the bequest with the MoLP. The current plan is to use the \$25,000 for billboards along I-70, a speaker's bureau, and direct mail marketing.

At the time of his death, Grant Stauffer said of Wetzel, "A Libertarian since the early 1980s, he had a wonderful sense of humor and loved science fiction and movies. Karl had no family; Libertarians were his family. His dedication and sense of humor will be sorely missed." We still miss you Karl. And we thank you. ❖

Libertarians in the Media

Nugent on KTRS, St. Louis

Frank Nugent, Director of the Missouri Division of the Fully Informed Jury Association and former Libertarian candidate for Lt. Governor, spoke on jury nullification.

Stauffer on KKFI, Kansas City

Grant Stauffer was interviewed and took calls on the Barbara Crist Show. Topics of discussion included light rail, the "fixit facism" of the Reform Party, and the success of the MoLP.

Light Rail

reprinted from the Kansas City STAR, Oct. 25

Light rail is one of the most foolish ideas to hit Kansas City. It is not feasible because we are one of the least dense cities in the nation with the lowest number of cars per freeway mile...Light rail also pollutes more because the cars run continuously and continue to use energy derived from coal...An \$18 billion system in Denver would have taken only 55,000 cars per day off the road. This works out to a cost of about \$327,000 per car.

Kansas City is now technically broke and is running a \$15 million deficit. Such a system violates your rights by taking your money for something that is not a provenance of government. but merely serve the hidden government of construction companies, related unions, bankers, bond traders and lawyers who feed off huge projects. This project...cannot be justified either as a people mover or car remover. It is uneconomical and pollutes more. It is a bad idea and should be voted down...It is OK to just say no to light rail.

Grant Stauffer, Chair, Jackson County Libertarian Party

Libertarian Picnic Serves Spirit

Story and Photo by Duane Thies

REPRINTED FROM THE SAINT JOSEPH TELEGRAPH, SEPT. 16

A small crowd of enthusiastic people attended the Buchanan County Libertarian Party's Fifth Annual Barbecue and Picnic Sunday at Hyde Park. The mood was positive, as many believe that people are disgusted with both major political parties-- Republicans and Democrats.

The speaker was Jeanne Bojarski, a corporate communications manager and likely candidate for lieutenant governor after running for the post in 1996. A former economics teacher, she has been active at all levels of the Libertarian Party of Missouri and has frequently campaigned in St. Joseph in the past.

She is concerned about the present Social Security system. "If my daughter could keep 15 percent of her wages, which is the total of what she and her employer pay in Social Security taxes, she could be rich when she retires." She expressed concern about economic development projects, which she believes means no one is secure in their property.

Her husband, Grant Stauffer, talked about eminent domain in Kansas City. "The Magna Carta outlawed eminent domain except for schools and roads," Stauffer said. "That stood for nearly 800 years. Now they take anyone's property if they believe it can be used to create more tax revenue." He opposes a plan to build a 33-movie theater complex in downtown Kansas City. "The mafia used to launder money through amusement parks," he said. "Entertainment is not the purpose of the government."

He also deplored the way the land was taken for the new NASCAR track in the Kansas City area. "The hidden government works with these projects," he said. It is legalized theft. Judges don't stand up to these people. Any house can be stolen. This is against the Constitution." He said many companies that have had tax abatements on their land for many years have asked for tax abatements into perpetuity when the original abatements expire. "We have to make up the short fall, because it makes a hole in the tax base," Stauffer said. Stauffer may run for U.S. Senate in 2000.

Kevin Wisneski was introduced as a possible Libertarian Party candidate for 29th District state representative, a seat now held by Democrat Maurice Lawson. "Libertarians are fighting to give freedom back to the people," Wisneski said. "Libertarians are for lowering taxes and no hypocrisy." He said the many issues of the Libertarians include legalizing victimless crimes. He also expressed concern about censorship. ❖

LIBERTARIAN MAKES "BEST OF" LIST



The eclectic libertarian presence of a long-time LP activist caught the attention of one of the most popular weeklies in the state. This year, the St. Louis-based Riverfront Times listed over 130 assorted "Best Of" picks, from chefs to museums to architecture. Making "Best Gadfly" is Ken Bush .

Though praising the recognition, some of his fellow libertarians took exception to the category title. Frank Nugent of Kirkwood, Mo, a former lieutenant governor candidate, wrote a letter questioning why a libertarian activist is called a "gadfly" while a liberal one is given the more flattering title of "radical." Nugent none the less congratulates the RFT for recognizing a Libertarian.

Bush notes, "I urged the RFT to change the listing category. I felt it would be more accurate to call it "Best Individualist," "Best Iconoclast," or "Best Rebel." And though what article says about my attending Green Party and the Birch Society events is true, I'm much more involved with NRA and ACLU causes. These show the true diversity of my outreach." ❖

Show Me Freedom
PO Box 32731
Kansas City, Mo 64171

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BEST GADFLY: KEN BUSH

REPRINTED FROM THE RIVERFRONT TIMES, SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5

Ken Bush has been a leading dissident voice against the political establishment for a generation. At 46 years of age, he shows no sign of slowing down. An ardent supporter of Libertarian Party causes, Bush interjects himself into a variety of issues.

Wherever government is perceived to have intruded, Bush can be found challenging the status quo. You can spy him at city-council meetings or at a genetic engineering conference. he's as comfortable at a Gateway Green Alliance potluck as he is a John Birch Society meeting. Bush abhors anything and everything that smacks of constitutional infringement on citizen's rights. He abhors drug-control laws with the same passion that he detests gun-control measures. Hunter S. Thompson would love this guy.

Bush says he enjoys his Libertarian role because it allows him to hobnob with both sides of the political spectrum. "We're generally accepted with the civil liberties crowds as well as the conservatives," he says. In a nutshell, he sums up the Libertarian philosophy this way: "We want government out of your bedroom and out of your bank account." ❖

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Mailing Address
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