

Show Me Freedom

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Public Be D----d

Tale of Low Doings in High Places

Bojarski & Stauffer

As more things change...the more they stay the same. Fresh winds may be blowing through Washington—and we do emphasize the may—but here in Missouri it's the arrogant politicians vs. the people—as usual.

Of course, we can all think of recent examples. The discredited Bob Griffin's reelection as speaker of the Missouri House. Former secretary of State Judy Wirth's embarrassing attempt to resign to office, as if without power and perks she would simply fade into a puddle of nothing, like the Wicked Witch of the West doused with a pail of oil. But closer to home for us are the recent actions of the Jackson County Legislature.

On January 25, the Legislature passed a budget of \$136M, 9-0, without bothering to hold a public hearing as required by statute. This budget was \$613,000 MORE than recommended by Jackson County Executive, Kathryn Elders. The excess included automatic \$1200 "car allowances" for full-time aides to the part-time Legislators, whether they need or not (read: pocket money). It also included over \$200,000 for "outside agencies" (read: Legislators' pet special interest groups).

The budget also included money to hire lobbyists to Jeff City, political plums that typically go to ex-politicians out of work, or relatives of politicians. In the past, these have included Bob Griffin's son (who was charged with drug and firearms violations during his tenure - a real chip off the old block). Also the son of a state Rep, a convicted sex offender who apparently needed money to pay his legal bills. This time, everyone knew that the biggest sink (\$32,500) was intended for Bill Waris, a former County Executive and machine politician who was ousted by the voters over 4 years ago.

We need these expenditures like we need a hole in the head! Much more; the other excesses in the recommended budget, such as an almost 80% increase in the cost of simply having a Legislature since 1992; 57% increase in subsidies for the sports stadiums; 22% increase for Economic Development; and a cool half-million plus

for the homeless (while rooms in free, federally-funded "Section 8" hotels remain unoccupied). Etc., etc. Who have these expenditures benefitted? You can bet it's not the "end users" of government. Reporter Gromer Jeffers of the STAR threw up red flags on the over-appropriations and the illegal budget passage. The editorial page ran a biting piece on Waris ("He's ba-a-a-ck!") quoting Shields as saying she wishes he would "get a life outside government." A hearing was hastily called for Monday afternoon, Jan. 30, after the articles appeared and Shields refused to sign the amended budget.

WE WERE UPSET. We frantically tried to obtain more information. On Monday morning, Stauffer was shunted from the Executive's office, to the Finance Department, to the Auditor in his quest for a specific list of the budget changes, to no avail (Finance did give him a copy of the 1995 Recommended Budget).

The Chairman of the Legislature, Rev. James Tindall, was quoted in the STAR as saying "If someone wants anything changed, we will be here all night" (read: public be d----d, don't bug us). He was right that nothing would come of the grudgingly hastily called hearing.

Bojarski could not attend since like most taxpayers on a Monday afternoon, she had to work. Stauffer reports: "Tindall asked at the hearing if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the now secret 1995 budget. One man got up and mumbled something about why we were hiring the discredited Bill Waris as a lobbyist. I wanted to ask why we needed a lobbyist in Jeff City at all. I thought Tindall was then going to ask for public comment against the budget. Instead, he abruptly shouted, 'The budget session is closed. The budget passes.' I was stunned. This was the 'public session' and still didn't know what the changes were."

continued on Page 4

om the Editor...

/ Jeanne Bojarski

I blue? YES! And you can be too. True blue to the growing LP statewide organization, that is, with YOUR NAME listed in the official Missouri State Manual, commonly known as the Blue Book. The manual is distributed to libraries, government agencies, and politicians across the state, and is a great way to let Missourians (and the other parties) know we are gaining members and clout.

The manual is published every two years. The Missouri Libertarian Party was listed in it for the first time in the 1993-4 issue, following our establishment as an "official" party in 1992. In this issue, we had appointed committee people (and some county clerks) listed for 18 counties, along with the names and photos of state officers.

We hope to have many more counties and subdivisions represented in the issue to be published this fall. Even if you didn't run for a committee position in the 1994 elections, you can still be appointed to available vacancies in your ward or township. Contact your County Chair if you are interested. If you don't have one or don't know who it is, contact me directly at the SMF address.

County Chairs: many of you have supplied me with lists of your elected and appointed committeepeople. MANY THANKS! Those who have not need to do so. Steve Ahrens, Director of Publications, is counting on ME to coordinate collecting and submitting all the names to be published. The deadline is in April.

Recruiting additional committeepeople for vacancies is a great way to give your existing County organization a task they can sink their teeth into. Hold a recruiting party! Put out an inexpensive mailing, similar to Greene County's new bulletin of local events/goals (first page reprinted in this issue). State Treasurer/Database Coordinator Karl Wetzel will be glad to supply you with mailing labels at nominal cost if you give him the zip codes you want to reach. Call Karl directly at (816) 454-8867. Don't miss this opportunity to build the party and shake up the status quo!

Other notes: At the last State Committee Meeting, Senate candidate Bill Johnson was appointed MoLP Executive Director. This is his column in this issue. The state meetings have been bringing many new faces; on Jan. 15 regulars from St. Louis, KC, Springfield, and Columbia were joined by activists and observers from Jefferson County, Poplar Bluff, Fulton, and Mexico. Everyone welcome!

Show Me Freedom (SMF) is published by the **MoLP, PO Box 32731, KC, MO, 64171**. To contact the editor directly, call or fax (816) 561-3596 (call first to fax). The opinions expressed herein are generally hers unless otherwise indicated.

Notes from Around the State

KC Metro Libertarians

Although the Club is not running any of their own members in the non-partisan City elections, they are playing a significant role in shaping the issues in the race. Members are also helping candidates who generally agree with the Libertarian "lower taxes, less government" philosophy.

Public forums sponsored by the Club are a major avenue for delivering input on the issues and meeting with candidates one-on-one. The forums were the brainchild of club **Sec'y/Treasurer Doc Larner**, who investigated the races and handled the candidate invitations. The **Mayoral Forum** that took place on January 19 was successful beyond the Club's most optimistic expectations. All three candidates including incumbent Mayor Cleaver were there. **The event was covered by FOX TV news, the STAR, and the PITCH weekly.** Over 40 people attended.

A forum for the **City Council candidates** will take place on February 16. Over a dozen have accepted invitations. The focus will be on the same issues of proposed taxes/ subsidies for downtown hotel development, sports complexes, "arts," etc; the hated KC earnings tax; neglect of basic services in favor of the Council's pet projects; and the property-rights violations and neighborhood destruction that have resulted from the City's use of eminent domain.

The attendance and coverage testify to the growing influence of the Club in City and County politics. Some candidates not only come to the forums, but also attend other meetings of the group. Part of this is due to the good showing of the Libertarian slate for County Legislature and other Libertarian candidates in the 1994 election:

Both candidates and press have been evincing greater familiarity with the Lib "platform." **Mike Taylor of the PITCH** humorously began his lengthy report on the forum by writing: "The three mayoral candidates walked apprehensively up the stairs of the Double Dragon restaurant around 7pm, Jan. 19, to face the Metro KC Libertarian Club. Could be neither Clay Chastain, Mayor Emanuel Cleaver nor Councilman Dan Cofran had much hope of impressing the 40-person gathering." He knew the Libs would not agree with pro-tax, pro-subsidy positions.

As **4th District City Council candidate Richard Cushon** remarked to **Club Chairperson Jeanne Bojarski**: "You guys have a reputation for working hard and sticking to a consistent philosophy." Or, to paraphrase the intro to the FOX TV news segment, "They grilled the candidates on all the hot issues."
continued on Page 4

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Public Be D----d (Cont. from Page 1)

As known that three Legislators voted against the specific appropriation to Waris; two, Lisa White Hardwick (D) and Dixie Ann (R) voted against all the proposed lobbyists; and only ONE, White Hardwick, publicly expressed doubts about the budget as a whole, saying: "More cuts should have been made."

Happens they feel as frustrated as we do. We hope so, as we don't want to let the Legislature get away with this arrogance. We are looking for allies and avenues for obtaining a true public hearing, and will have recourse to Initiative Petition if necessary (10,000 signatures).

As they say, all politics are local. Get involved! This is where YOU can make a difference, even if it's difficult and frustrating. WE CAN'T LET OUR LOCAL POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO STEAM-ROLL US!

Notes (Continued from Page 2)

St. Louis County

St. Louis has been busy following the '94 elections. In November the Area Libertarians showed comedian Tim Goble's video at the monthly outreach meeting. In January, Jim Easton and Leah Edelman of the Privacy Rights Education Project lectured on Rights and Privacy Rights. Ken Bush spoke with students at Kirkwood High School, Parkway North, and Country Day School about the Libertarian movement and party in December and January. He was also featured speaker at the annual convention of We the People the first weekend of February, again talking about the philosophy and goals of the LP. We the People is a national group based in St. Louis dedicated to studying the various ways the federal government oversteps its jurisdiction.

The St. Louis Central Committee has embarked on fund-raising projects. They are selling two bumperstickers, "Criminals Prefer Armed Victims" and "Fear the Government that Fears You." They are also selling chances to the Sunday, July 30 performance of the Phantom of the Opera at the Fox, a \$114 value. Anyone interested in purchasing any of these items should send check or money order to St. Louis County Libertarian Central Committee, P.O. Box 37042, St. Louis, MO, 63141. Bumperstickers are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 (postage included). Chances to the show are \$2.50.

St. Louis City

New officers were elected on November 22. They are David Edelman, Chair; Nancy Webb, Vice Chair; Kevin Babcock,

Treasurer; and Barb Morrison, Secretary. Former Chair Jim Morrison did not run, saying that "the Libertarian Party believes in term limits for both politicians and party officers."

The new administration's goals include cementing the position of the Libertarians as the City's number two party by recruiting and running qualified candidates for office; finding committee persons in all 28 wards; and establishing an aggressive system of election challenges to assure that city elections are fair and honest.

Northland

The Northland Libertarians, with members from Clay and Platte Counties, is planning a public access cable TV show that will be shown across the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Volunteer

began training on February 1st at the studios of American Cablevision. Format and content are still to be decided, and additional volunteers are encouraged to participate.

Mid-Missouri

The Mid-Missouri group (Columbia) headed by Jim Givens is planning a membership drive. One of their tools will be a new, compact outreach booth designed for doing "Nolan Chart" political surveys. The group is also preparing a proposal to host the 1995 MoLP Convention.

Cape Girardeau

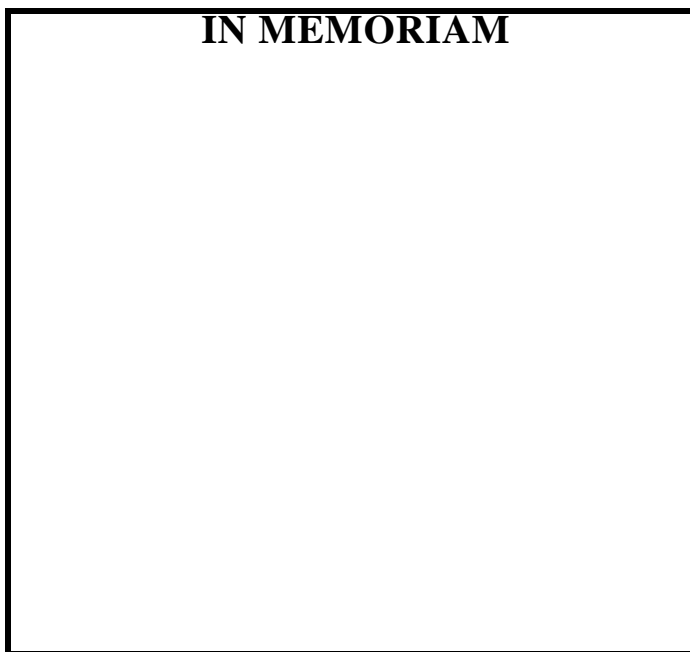
Charles (Chip) and La Vonna Taylor of Poplar Bluff made the long trip to the last state committee meeting and reported that their local group continues to be active with fair booths and membership recruitment.

Jefferson County

Chair Marianne Gassman reports that 1994 County Commissioner candidate Dave Ericson is leading an effort to expose corruption in local government. He is charging the City Attorney with illegal collection of fees. The Jeffco group is taken very seriously in local politics and this latest foray should make waves.

Greene County

Springfield libertarians continue to be pace setters in activism. The first page of their new local bulletin is reprinted on Page 6 as an example for other County organizations who may want to do local mailings. Great idea!



clockwise from top left: Bob Blanck, Karen Siewert, Bill Van Ausdale, Judy Miller, Chris Palmarine, Don Lerner, Fred Hein, Jeanne Bojarski, and Brad Spangler.

Mid-Missouri City area Libertarians celebrated the holidays at a party jointly organized by Northland's Fred Hein and Kay Sheil. The party was held at Fred's cliffside home overlooking the KC skyline, also known as the "Hein Quarters." Fred is shown at bottom left with portrait of his deceased late wife, Dr. Rebecca Hutchins, in background.

How the St. Louis Libs Want You!

The St. Louis County Libertarian Central Committee wants to add you to our activist list. In other words, we want to meet YOU! Why? So you can make new friends, enjoy social opportunities, meet our candidates, expand your mind with Libertarian ideas, and have fun! We are trying to build a database of truly interested people. We need people to help with the April 17 tax rally, design and distribute flyers door to door, write press releases, work on demonstrations, and if nothing else, donate money. So give your local committee person a call today.

If your township is not listed, give Chair LaDonna Higgins a call. We would be delighted to talk with you. Your township is indicated on your voter's registration card.

St. Louis County (unlike all others in the state) commits its representatives to office. People are elected every four years, concurrent with the election of the governor. Let LaDonna know if you want to run, or be appointed to a vacancy in the meantime (man and woman for each township). If you get appointed before the deadline for submitting information to the Secretary of State's office in April, you will be listed in the 1995 Missouri State Manual.

Current Committee Members:

Chairman, Jim Kilgore, 429-2880
Vice Chairman, Jim and Maggie Burnes, 821-0694
Secretary, Tony Stever, 458-5656
Treasurer, Kevin Spitz, 631-9339
Education, LaDonna Higgins, 997-0291
Health, Dick Illyes, 644-0958
Environment, Matt Peters, 991-7774
Economics, Doris Nugent, 822-2952
Social Services, Paul Henroid, 894-2963
Law and Order, Eric and Sally Harris, 838-1776
Culture, Charles Kempf, 227-1307
Education, Deania Lohman, 227-9580
Health, Mark Kaufmann, 427-0058
Missouri River, Bob Schmedake, 256-8656
Northwest, Dean Hodge, 739-2306
Southeast, Brad Ems, 846-7643
Southwest, Dave Morrison, 391-3549

"I see the liberty of the individual not only as a great moral good in itself, but also as the necessary condition for the flowering of all the other goods that mankind cherishes: virtue, civilization, the arts and sciences, economic prosperity. But liberty has always been threatened by the encroachments of power, power which seeks to suppress, control, cripple, tax, and exploit the fruits of production. Power, the enemy of liberty, is consequently the enemy of all the other goods and fruits of civilization. And power is almost always centered in and focused on that repository of violence: the state.

— *Dr. Murray N. Rothbard,
1927-1995*

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