

# RRR

## ROTHBARD-ROCKWELL REPORT

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### Why The Report?

1989 was the exciting, wondrous year when the century of socialism/communism shifted, with dazzling speed, toward a 21st century of freedom. But at this glorious moment when libertarian ideas have exerted their greatest influence in a hundred years, what has been happening to libertarian activism and organizations? Have they expanded proportionately, ready to take advantage of this great breakthrough?

Hell no! Libertarian institutions have been imploding, collapsing, disappearing. The Libertarian Party is in parlous shape; and there are few periodicals available for libertarians to analyze these world events or to consider what to do next. In 1989 alone, while communism was disintegrating, three libertarian magazines disappeared.

A grievous loss was Mike Holmes's monthly *American Libertarian*, which provided indispensable news of the movement, as well as fearless commentary and

discussions of strategy. And while the death of *Individual Liberty* was not nearly as calamitous, it did provide an outlet for independent news and commentary. Among the survivors, *LP News* is swill, and boring swill at that, and *Liberty* has become a bimonthly homeless shelter for nihilo-libertarian nobodies.

Communism has crumpled and libertarian ideas are spreading, yet the movement is in dire straits,

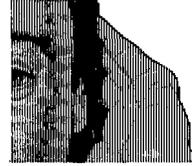
**Communism has crumpled and libertarian ideas are spreading, yet the movement is in dire straits, floundering, played out, getting nowhere.**

floundering, played out, getting nowhere. Why? What's wrong with the movement? What's wrong with the Party? We have plenty of ideas on these subjects, but we have found that there is no place to publish them. We found that other libertarian publications are too timid, too disapproving, too worried about

hostility from powerful sectors of the movement, to publish them. And so we have decided to fill the gap ourselves, and to launch our own publication.

Anyone who knows the writings of the two of us knows that we have plenty of things to say, on a wide variety of topics of great interest to libertarians, and furthermore that we pull no punches. We want to tell the truth, at long last.

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### THE EAR

The Donald-Ivana Trump split has been a boon to all my sisters in the gossip business, but there's an interesting libertarian angle to this story.

Last New Year's Eve, Donald brought his mistress, Marla Maples, to a party at libertarian billionaire David Koch's Aspen, Colorado, mansion. All went well until Ivana telephoned and demanded to know if her husband was there with his girlfriend. "David got nervous and broke into one of his donkey laughs," reported *The New York Post*, "but Ivana thought he was laughing at her. That was the straw that broke the camel's back. People were laughing at her."

Did David Koch cause the Trump divorce? Well, not quite, but now no one can say that David—exiled by brother Charles to a life of idle richness—never accomplished anything.

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Marla Bottemiller, appointed with much fanfare as the new National Field Coordinator of the Libertarian Party, is not exactly beginning by Making Friends and Influencing People—one of her main tasks. On a tour of the Southern states, Marla

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(THE EAR cont. from P.1)

came to Jackson, Mississippi. Expecting for some reason to be put up at the home of the local Libertarian Party honcho, she was told that said honcho's home was not available.

At this point, Marla called Jack Criss, a local radio talk show host who has been sympathetic to libertarianism. Although she has never met Jack, she asked him to put her up for the night. On being refused, she kept calling, phoning

the poor guy no less than seven times. Although formerly sympathetic to the LP, Jack now tells me he no longer feels the same way.

Marla, sit down here right next to me, and let me talk to you, woman to woman. Are there no motels? Doesn't the LP give you an expense account? Outside the LP, people do not go for the standard libertarian attitude of "*Su casa es mi casa*." In the real world, sweetie, they'll call you a moocher, a deadbeat, and an annoying pest. And it's a dangerous world out there; you may end up finding Mr. Goodbar.

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The two real-world potential LP presidential candidates have taken a look at the party's declining fortunes and bailed out.

When asked recently if he were running, Ron Paul told *The Houston Post*: "I hope I have enough sense not to do that again." Walter Williams, who had said he might

be interested if all fundraising and ballot-access were taken care of (a laughable proviso, given the LP), was given a two-hour, dutch-uncle talk by Edward H. Crane III of the Cato Institute, one of the anti-LP pioneers. Walter is now telling friends there is "no way" he will run.

That leaves

Andre Marrou—ex-VP candidate, ex-engineer, ex-realtor, and ex-life insurance salesman—as the one and only. Marrou may have failed in the real world, but his VP campaign account ended with a

\$46,000 surplus. And the 51-92 ballot access PAC he formed with Michael Emerling—bankrupt and loan defaulter—has raised almost \$100,000 (while spending little on ballot access).

Recently, Andre has been verbally abusing his wife in public. Eileen is a great gal who deserves better, but the situation showcases Andre. LPers will now have to figure out not only whether Andre's IQ is 51 or 92, but whether he or Michael is the greater cad.

Note: the LP's own ballot access committee shut down after chairman Steve Givot sent the most ill-advised fundraising letter in the history of the movement. (Steve: It's not smart to tell donors their money has been all pissed away, but you promise to be continent in the future.)

The Ear's fearless prediction: the 1992 campaign will make the 1984 Bergland debacle look good.

-S.B.

(REPORT, cont. from P.1)

N.B.: The two of us are hardcore libertarians, but we have also long been "paleos"—men devoted to bourgeois values and culture, and staunch opponents of the nihilist "counter-culture."

Too long has libertarianism been scorned because it has been connected, in the lifestyle and culture of most movement activists, with an adolescent hippie-druggie culture that scorns people of competence who earn a regular paycheck (much less who have met a payroll), or have any visible means of support. So we will be publishing, from time to time, the social conservatism of "The Old Curmudgeon" and the cultural conservatism of "Mr. First Nighter," two M.N.R. bylines from the old *Libertarian Forum* much reviled by the mass of nihilo-libertarians.

We are also privileged to have a gossip columnist, Sarah Barton, who knows where the bodies are buried and wants to tell what she knows. All those seething with discontent at injustice or iniquity in the movement are invited to send their items to Miss Barton.

Most of the *RRR* will be written by the two of us and Miss Barton, though from time to time others will be invited to contribute. But we are not open to all comers. While the clash of ideas has value in the broad culture, we are frankly not interested in devoting our limited resources to publishing and promoting error. There is enough of that in the libertarian movement.

Remember that your subscription is for 12 issues rather than one year. You may—depending on events—get those 12 issues in 11 months or 14. We hope that you like our newsletter, but even if you don't, you can't afford not to

read us. Already, this publication is the talk of the movement. It will continue to be.

-M.N.R.,L.H.R., Jr.

## Farewell Speeches to the Alabama LP

The Alabama Libertarian Party held a large-scale convention in Birmingham on February 10, featuring a luncheon address by Lew Rockwell on "What's Wrong with the Libertarian Party," and a talk soon after by myself on "The Libertarian Movement in the '90s," capped by an evening banquet talk by Bob Poole on "Privatizing Airports." Approximately one hundred people attended—a record for the Alabama LP—obviously attracted by the program. The gathering also included many leaders of the neighboring Georgia party. Indeed, the Alabama party also used the occasion to hold a meeting of southeastern state chairs.

Lew Rockwell was invited because of his striking article on "The Case for Paleolibertarianism," *Liberty* (January), by far the most controversial article that *Liberty* has ever published. Also, Rockwell's announced resignation from the LP had been mentioned (albeit in incredibly garbled form) in the December *LP News*.

My own similar stance, I thought, had been made clear, if not by my seconding talk for Matt Monroe at the national conven-

tion at Philadelphia, then at least by my fiery denunciation of the LP in "The Revenge of the *Luftmenschen*: Debacle at Philadelphia," in what unfortunately turned out to be the final issue of *American Libertarian* (September). Furthermore, the Alabama LP leadership made clear their solid agreement with Rockwell's article, their disaffection having been registered long ago in refusing to join any LP region, thereby avoiding representation on the National Committee.

Worried about what we were going to say, Ron Crickenberger, newly elected NatCom representative from the South (Region 4), requested that he be allowed to make a brief comment after our talks. All in all, this was big stuff, far more significant than a run-of-the-mill state convention.

Although allegedly sympathetic to the Rockwell-Rothbard message, the assembled Alabama and Georgia party stalwarts apparently got a lot more than they had bargained for. For Rockwell decided to get down to cases, to cut beneath the paleo-nihilo generalities, and to tell the assemblage, in concrete detail, what precisely was wrong with the national Libertarian Party.

Even though he went out of his way to exempt the assembled Alabama and Georgia party people from his strictures, the gathering reacted in shock and horror anyway. For Rockwell had named names, pricking the inflated balloons of the dearly beloved leaders who infest the Libertarian Party like the leeches and barnacles that they are. In the question period, Lew was accused at one and the same time of being "too general," and also "too specific", i.e., "name-calling." One woman, in tears, accused Lew of destroying her life and her values.

In my own talk, I exhorted the assemblage not to react to Lew by "shooting the messenger"—a time-honored practice of rulers to whom the messenger brings bad news. Not only did the gathering not heed my advice, but I am afraid that very few, if any, of them understood the allusion. When asked by one of the audience why Lew had to disclose his hard-hitting message in this particular forum, I replied that there is virtually nowhere else to make these disclosures: certainly not in *LP News* or *Liberty*, and alas no longer in *American Libertarian*. (Now, of course, there is the *RRR*.)

We are dealing here, not only in the Libertarian Party as a whole, but, sad to relate, even in the dissident state parties, not with a group of rational people but with virtually a religious cult. It was particularly disheartening to those of us associated with *American Libertarian* that the only people who seemed to be affected by our detailed revelation of chicanery in the LP were the guilty parties themselves, who squeaked to the high heavens, and tried their best to have our critical articles suppressed.

The other folks, the ones being fleeced, the ones that we were trying to reach with our message, either expressed no interest whatever, or denounced us as "negative," "divisive," etc. The woman who accused Lew of destroying her life and values was only an extreme version of the general reaction: why is Rockwell imposing such a "downer" on us when we came here to be inspired?

The downer, unfortunately, is the messenger conveying the truth. Indeed, the reaction of LPers to the news and messages deliv-