

The Libertarian

Published by **The Libertarian Foundation**, #115-444 Robson Street
Vancouver • British Columbia • Canada • Phone 688-2308



Volume I, Number 2

May, 1978

The purposes of *The Libertarian* are threefold: to enlighten, to entertain and (by no means least) to encourage. The Foundation's "Progress Report" will be a regular feature, as will announcements of forthcoming events. Another regular feature will be reports of Libertarian action around the world.

Reviews of new books acquired by the Foundation Bookstore, together with a backlist of available volumes, will appear in each issue. And, as our list of contributing writers grows, we will be featuring informed articles on issues of the day.

In addition, we welcome your comments, letters and anecdotes. Action by — and activities of — libertarians around the province will, we hope, eventually form a large section of the newsletter. All letters to the editor, stories, comments and enquiries should be addressed to The Editor, *The Libertarian*, Suite 115, 444 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C.

* * * * *

All the pundits predict a general election before the year is out. We look forward to this, if for no other

reason than because the Libertarian Party of Canada will have no less than 50 candidates running. For a party only four years old, this is a considerable achievement. "The Growth of the Libertarian Movement" (page 2) describes the progress of this and other libertarian organizations in North America.

* * * * *

"When a devotee of private property, free market, limited government principles states his position, he is inevitably confronted with a barrage of socialistic clichés. Failure to answer these has effectively silenced many a spokesman for freedom."

This comment appears in the Foreword to *Clichés of Socialism*, published by the Foundation for Economic Education of New York. The book is a collection of over 70 of the more common socialist clichés, together with a reasoned argument against each.

Because of their value as verbal ammunition, we will be reprinting one of these clichés each month. They will be reprinted as separate inserts, for easy collection. ■

THE LIBERTARIAN FOUNDATION: PROGRESS REPORT

Libertarianism formally arrived in B.C. in March. Previously, campus study groups, coffee break sessions and political activists had been promoting the same ideas without being aware of other libertarian-minded groups. One radio talk show turned that about.

In Favour 10-1

On March 28, Rick Bolstler and Mike Little were invited by Ed Murphy to talk on the air about their philosophy and their new educational venture, the Libertarian Foundation. The show concentrated on the political implications of the philosophy and Rick and Mike did not hold back on any of the radical elements of libertarianism.

The call-ins were in favour 10-1 and the show continued for an extra hour. Upon returning to the Rembrandt Hotel, they found that the seven hotel lines had been swamped for over two hours. Their room phones rang until midnight and all the next day.

And every call without exception was positive. The talk show also generated articles and photos in both the Sun and the *Province* and a half-hour interview and phone-in on CKVU's "Vancouver Show".

First Public Meeting

All this activity and enthusiasm spurred the holding of the first public meeting of the Libertarian Foundation, on April 10. The meeting was held at the Rembrandt Hotel. Its purpose was to introduce the founders and supporters of the Foundation to the general public, and to present its aims and activities.

The meeting was by invitation only and was not advertised. The attendance was excellent: over 130 people attended and participated in a spirited question-and-answer session. After the meeting, everyone was invited to chat with the Board of Directors and other supporters. The meeting officially ended at 10:00, but debates and discussions *continued* until 1:30 A.M.

Weekend in Chemainus

Interest in the Foundation was not limited to the mainland. One phone call on Ed's show was from a Pat Engbers. She and her husband Harry live and work in Chemainus. The Engbers invited Mike and Rick to their home to discuss their activities on the Island. A coffee party was held on Sunday, attended by 9 Islanders looking for an alternative to statist policies.

The outcome of this profitable weekend was the establishment of the first branch of the Foundation at the Engbers. Those interested in Island activities, including political activity, should contact Pat or Harry Engbers, Box 77, Chemainus, B.C., telephone (112) 246-4268.

Response in Other Areas

The Libertarian Society of U.B.C. was formed last November by Cam Osborne and other interested students at U.B.C. Three members of the Society — Cam Osborne, Gregg Goodfellow and Tim Dere-wianko — met with Rick and Mike. The Foundation will be in contact with this group to help them with their activities when classes resume in the Fall.

And finally, Mike and Rick were guests on the B.C. Institute of Technology student-produced TV news show. They were interviewed by Faridoun Hemani, a first-year broadcasting student. This interview, it is hoped, will encourage Libertarian activity on the B.C.I.T. campus.

On the Home Front

Office. We have moved headquarters to an office on Robson Street. We are still looking for materials and furniture, so please search around for unused articles that you can part with. Trudy Buckler has single-handedly contributed chairs, tables, supplies, stationery and even a selectric typewriter. Many thanks, Trudy.

Bookstore. Our bookstore is stocking up. Details of books presently available are given on the back page of the newsletter. The bookstore is run by Bill Buckler and for the time being will be in our office.

Newsletter. We have acquired an embryonic staff to produce *The Libertarian*. In charge of editing is Helen Yeomans. Articles are being written by several contributors.

The 1981 census will be one of the quickest, easiest and most accurate ever. They're going to count the number of people on the federal payroll and multiply by two.

THE GROWTH OF THE LIBERTARIAN MOVEMENT

The modern libertarian movement came of age at the biennial convention of the Young Americans for Freedom in St. Louis in August 1969. This organization of conservative youth had been founded in 1959 at William F. Buckley's estate in Sharon, Connecticut.

The Split With Conservatism

Libertarians were attracted to YAF by the individualist elements of its founding statement. However, over the years they came to disagree profoundly with YAF's attitude on *laissez faire* and the role of government.

In 1969 the Convention split over the draft issue, with libertarians advocating draft resistance, which ran directly counter to the YAF position. The official position prevailed, and libertarians subsequently dissociated themselves entirely from the organization.

Growth and Political Action

Being activist by nature, the libertarians formed their own organizations rather than fragment and dissipate their efforts. The California movement, centered in the Los Angeles area, formed its own California Libertarian Alliance with about 1,000 members. The remainder of the "Libertarian Caucus" of the YAF merged with a small Maryland-based group called the Society for Rational Individualism, to form, late in 1969, the Society for Individual Liberty, with approximately 3,000 members. At that time the largest libertarian organization in the United States, SIL is only one of numerous educational and political groups formed both before and since 1969.

Direct political action came in 1972 with the founding of the national Libertarian Party, today recognized as the third largest party in the United States. Since 1972, political groups have grown in number, and today there is a libertarian party in every state.

The Canadian Scene

Several Canadian libertarians went as observers to the American Libertarian Party's founding convention in 1972. Subsequently, in October of 1973, they founded the Libertarian Party of Canada. In 1974, 23 libertarians ran as independents in the federal election. And in the next election over 50 candidates will run, this time as formal candidates of the LPC. The party will be registered officially, and its name will appear on the ballot.

The Libertarian Party of Ontario was formed in July of 1974, with 9 members. Presently it has 300 full members, and approximately 3,000 supporters. The

party fielded 17 candidates in the 1975 provincial election, and 31 in the 1977 election.

The most recent political activity has been the formation, in February of last year, of the Quebec Libertarian Party. We await developments there with great interest.■

—LIBERTARIAN ACTION—

Subject: Statistics Canada

All business organizations are legally required to fill out the innumerable Statistics Canada forms that drop through the mail slot. Failure to comply can mean, under the Statistics Act, a \$500 fine and three months in jail.

Gordon Robson doesn't care. The millionaire director of the Vancouver Whitecaps soccer club has been ignoring all StatsCan forms for the past two years — and he has no intention of changing now.

"If someone can be put behind bars for refusing to fill out a form, then it's time we all went to jail in Canada." Form-filling is a waste of time as well as an invasion of individual privacy, he says. In any case, his companies haven't time to fill them out: "They're too busy making a profit so they can pay taxes to finance Statistics Canada."

Robson, also part-owner of the Rembrandt Hotel in Vancouver, urges all businesses to give form-filling the lowest priority. Time spent filling forms costs businesses millions of dollars, while the continual government intervention and expansion is killing individual incentive and investment, he says.

Robson's broadsides against government aren't confined to Statistics Canada. He's also fighting the city health and fire departments over what he regards as unreasonable inspections and alteration demands. And last month he sent a brief to federal ministers complaining that government red tape is destroying competition in the Rockies tourism industry.

Accommodation in the Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise areas is inadequate: Robson reckons that another 500 rooms in each area would generate an extra \$84 million in business and \$300 million worth of jobs. But development restrictions by the federal parks department have stifled competition in these areas.

Frustrated with government intervention, Robson sold out all his interests in 1975 — and now he says he's just about ready to quit again. Who could blame him?■

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Foundation will be holding its second public meeting in May, for those people who were unable to attend the first. The film "Man's Material Welfare" will also be screened at this time. Subscribers will be advised by mail of the exact date of the meeting.

The Ontario Libertarian Party is hosting a seminar on free-market economics on May 27-28. The seminar will be presented by representatives of the Foundation for Economic Education of New York. For further details contact OLP headquarters, at 2086 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario. (416) 489-6057.■

"DEAR GOD"

A little boy very badly wanted \$100.00 and his mother told him to pray to God for it. He prayed and prayed, but for two weeks nothing happened.

Then he decided that perhaps he should write a letter to God requesting the \$100.00.

When postal authorities received the letter addressed to God, they opened it, read it and decided to send it to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister was so touched and aroused that he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a check for \$5.00. He thought his would appear to be a lot of money for a little boy.

The little boy was delighted upon receiving the \$5.00 and immediately sat down to write a thank-you letter to God, which went as follows:

Dear God:

Thank you very much for sending me the money. I noticed that you had to send it through Ottawa. As usual, those bastards deducted 95 percent.

BOOKS . . . BOOKS . . . BOOKS . . . BOOKS

The following books are now available from the Foundation bookstore, and may be ordered using the form on page 4.

Libertarianism by John Hospers (hardcover, \$9.50). One of the first expositions of libertarian philosophy, Hospers' book is intelligently written and always interesting. Discussing the application of libertarian theory to current social and economic problems, he doesn't shrink from exploring the more challenging questions (Who will look after the poor? Who will build the roads?). A must for newcomers to libertarian ideas.

BOOKS ... BOOKS ... BOOKS ... BOOKS

Economics in One Lesson, by Henry Hazlitt (\$1.75). "The art of economics consists in looking not merely at the immediate but at the longer effects of any actor policy; it consists in tracing the consequences of that policy not merely for one group but for all groups." Hazlitt's one lesson reduces complex studies to simple fundamentals that are easily understood and thus "disperses the illusions which push pressure groups and politicians all over the world to economic cannibalism and universal impoverishment."

The Incredible Bread Machine, by Susan Love Brown et al. (\$2.25). Written by six young Californian students, this is an engaging defense of *laissez faire* capitalism as the only economic system consistent with individual freedom. Chapter by chapter, it explores the consequences of government intervention, from the Great Depression ("The Sun Sets in the Yeast"), to inflation, recession and unemployment. The authors show clearly the relationship between economic and political freedom ("Burnt Toast"), and provide sound but easily understood economic analysis throughout the book.

The Law, by Frederic Bastiat (\$1.15). Law, writes Bastiat, is "the collective organization of the individual right to lawful defense." Its only purpose is "to protect persons, liberties and properties ... and to cause justice to reign over us all." The author shows how the law can be and is perverted to achieve the ends of those in power. Brilliantly reasoned, *The Law* is as pertinent today as when it was first written, over 100 years ago.

.....

Please send me the book(s) checked below. My cheque or money order for '\$ _____' is enclosed. (Add 25¢ postage for each book ordered. Payment must accompany order.)

- \$9.50 **Libertarianism**
- \$1.75 **Economics in One Lesson**
- \$2.25 **The Incredible Bread Machine**
- \$1.15 **The Law**

Name _____

Address _____

City/Prov. _____

Postal Code _____

Send to. Libertarian Foundation Bookstore, Suite 115, 444 Robson Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Future Titles

The following is a partial list of books to be ordered by the Bookstore. Details will appear in *The Libertarian* as these books become available.

AUTHOR	TITLE	PRICE (Canadian)
Philosophy		
Alfred J. Nock	Our Enemy the State	5.70
Ayn Rand	Atlas Shrugged	2.95
	The Fountainhead	2.50
	Anthem	1.25
	Night of January 16th	1.25
	We the Living	1.95
	Capitalism - The Unknown Ideal	1.50
	The Virtue of Selfishness	1.50
	The Romantic Manifesto	1.50
	The New Left - The Anti-Industrial Revolution	1.50
	For the New Intellectual	1.50
Rose Wilder Lane	Discovery of Freedom - Man's Struggle Against Authority	4.00
Tibor Machen (ed)	The Libertarian Alternative	10.30
John Hospers	Libertarianism	9.50
Lysander Spooner	No Treason	1.15
Philosophy of Law		
Frederic Bastiat	The Law	2.30
Friedrich Hayek	The Rule of Law	1.15
Economics		
Frederic Bastiat	Economic Sophisms	3.45
Friedrich Hayek	The Individual & Economic Order	2.88
	The Road to Serfdom	4.55
Henry Hazlitt	Economics in One Lesson	1.75
	What You Should Know About Inflation	2.85
Ludwig von Mises	Human Action	23.00
	Planning for Freedom	3.45
	Socialism	17.25
	Planned Chaos	1.15
Murray Rothbard	Power and Market	5.70
	America's Great Depression	5.70
	Man, Economy and State	11.50
	What Has Government Done to Our Money?	2.30
F.E.E.	Cliches of Socialism	2.30
Roger L. MacBride	A New Dawn for America	1.10
L.E. Read (FEE)	Elements of Libertarian Leadership	1.15
Susan Love Brown	The Incredible Bread Machine	2.25
Bettina B. Greaves	A Basic Reader	6.90
	Syllabus	6.90
Robert LeFebvre	Lift Her Up Tenderly	6.85

Prices subject to change without notice.