



WEST COAST LIBERTARIAN

The Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association

October 1987

Volume 7, Number 4.

FIGHTING AN ELECTION

by Bill Tomlinson

The day that an Election is called is not the time to start thinking about what we can do to stop these other people from reaching into our pockets for yet another five years.

By the time the Writ is dropped, they are already prepared, with candidates and agents and literature, not to mention armies of volunteers all ready and chomping at the bit with the sweet scent of victory already in their nostrils, to mangle a couple of metaphors.

Whilst these enthusiasts are covering the ground, we Libertarians are inclined to sit on our laurels, secure in the knowledge that as long as we don't show too much enthusiasm about volunteering, nobody will bother us, and we can let somebody else do it all. This is all very well, of course, as long as we understand that if we do nothing, then

nothing gets done, and not only that, we have missed out on all of the fun that is part of getting involved.

This time we would like to change all that. Succeeding in an Election involves the coming-together of a whole variety of talents. All that is really needed from any of us is a willingness to help, and this could range from helping to organize a campaign, handing out leaflets, telephone work, etc., even getting Libertarian voters to the polling station on Election Day, whatever suits the individual.

We hope to run at least three local active campaigns in the next Federal Election and this will require a great amount of help from people who have probably never even thought about what goes on behind the scenes in an Election Cam-

paign. If you would like to find out about the kinds of things that need to be done and especially how you can help, please come to the inaugural meeting of the Libertarian Action Group, at Lynn Valley Library, Corner of Mountain Highway and 27th Street, North Vancouver - Tuesday 27th October at 6:45 p.m.

• In the event that this newsletter did not reach you in time to attend the above meeting, please call Bill Tomlinson at 980-7370 in order that you can be involved in future meetings.

Contents

- 1 .. Fighting an Election
- 2 .. • Masthead
.. • Lib disgusted with violence.
- 3 .. Report on Seattle Convention
- 4 .. • National Policy Planned
.. • Right to Farm Assoc
- 5 .. Liberty Snipits
- 6 .. Free Jimmy Stevens

WEST COAST LIBERTARIAN is the official publication of the GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION. 922 Cloverley St., North Vancouver, B.C. V7L 1N3

The Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association is a local association of the Libertarian Party of Canada and the B.C. Libertarian Party. The GVLA advocates individual freedom and self-responsibility, a free market, and drastically reduced government power. Our fundamental principles forbid the initiation of force, fraud, or coercion against any person or group.

Voting membership in the GVLA or LPC requires signing our statement of principles.

Membership fees: \$5 for 5 years but if you wish to receive the newsletter keep your subscription current.

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SUBMISSIONS: Articles, of interest to libertarians are welcome and appreciated. Please send newspaper clippings, jokes, cartoons, copies of your letters to newspapers, notices of upcoming libertarian events. Send copy to West Coast Libertarian, 810 W. Broadway #363, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4C9

EXCHANGES WITH OTHER PUBLICATIONS ARE WELCOME.

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Business Card ----- \$5.00 per issue
Quarter Page ----- \$10.00 per issue
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Libertarian Disgusted with Violent Threats

Editor, The Leader, Sir:

Part of the risk of opposing the forces of unionism is the possibility of physical violence. The recent postal strike offered abundant evidence of this very unpleasant aspect of the labour movement.

Personally I have received only a few crank calls and threats of violence because I suggested that while unionism may benefit individual groups, coercive unionism is bad for society as a whole. The latest, received by my wife, stated that I "was going to get the **** kicked out of me, and that I was a ***** Sacred scab, as well as a ***** Sacred geek".

On the one hand, I was a little disgusted with this level of philosophical debate, but also a little pleased. This "gentleman" made my point for me in a most direct manner.

Fundamentally, the labor movement is based on violence. I am not a Sacred, but a libertarian, and as such I abhor forcing my opinions on others with the help of the use of force. I am even more upset when they do it unto me.

But the labor movement is based on the fundamental, and erroneous, principle that when you don't get your way, you can kick others around a bit. There are so many instances of this in both recent and distant history that I won't elaborate.

Besides, I want to point out that my views on unionism are quite orthodox and have been promulgated by such eminent and Nobel-prize winning economists as Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek, and more recently as well-known economists as Walter Williams and Thomas Sowell (both blacks in case it matters to you). These are not far-out views, but respected and established opinions, which I tried to condense into a letter to the editor.

What do you think, dear editor? Should I phone the police and ask for protection? Judging by what I saw the police do in the case of the posties, that doesn't seem very helpful.

Should I purchase a shotgun? I am not keen on that either. Perhaps I should embrace transcendental meditation or some other religion so that I will be ready for the hereafter? Perhaps I should fall silent and let only union leaders speak out on behalf of the workers. I'm sorry but I can't abide that solution, either.

Obviously, there is a sickness in our society, and let's hope that decency and a sense of fair play will help to alleviate it. I remain optimistic.

Jack Boulogne
13965 64 Avenue
Surrey

Report on Seattle Convention

by Paul Geddes

Have you ever been in a roomful of 1000 enthusiastic self-professed libertarians? I have, and it feels great. This occurred on the last evening of the Presidential Nominating Convention for the US Libertarian Party, last month in Seattle and topped off a fantastic half week. That night, the delegates and other attendees gathered for a gala banquet and talent exhibition. In between the skits, and songs over \$50,000 was raised for Ron Paul, the candidate chosen by the convention to lead the party in the 1988 Presidential election.

The convention was so energizing. The talent was near unbelievable. Every other person you ran into edited a newsletter, had just written a book or had a great new method for talking to others about libertarianism. The literature tables were amazing. It is wondrous stuff that the people in our movement are producing and it is now impossible to keep up with it all. I came back with six months of reading material and new approaches to a couple of philosophical issues to mull over (the purpose of defense, the idea of natural rights). I must share the following two gems.

Two new publications that I highly recommend are **AMERICAN LIBERTARIAN** (21715 Park Brook Drive, Katy, TX 77450, monthly, \$20 annually). and **LIBERTY** (P.O. Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368, bi-monthly, \$18 annually). The first is an eight page newspaper and is the best way of keeping track of current events in the movement. The second is a fifty page magazine specializing in the history of the movement, culture and politics in the broad sense.

And the characters!! A delegate from Vermont never appeared out of his army surplus trousers, combat boots, 'legalize marijuana' t-shirt, and a bowie knife strapped to his hip. The best attended seminar was probably Sex (Walter Block), Drugs (Robert Anton Wilson) and Rock and Roll (Dr. Demento). This seminar was too good for the TV news to pass up. Also memorable was the knockdown fight between the alternate health freaks and sceptic Robert Steiner. And how should I describe presidential candidate Harry Glen? Glen's flyer reads, "Harry believes God, guns and gusts made America great..." The former musician continually brought the house down (unintentionally) with his highfalutin rhetoric.

Now to the serious stuff. Both of the major candidates for the presidential nomination, Ron Paul (former Republican congressman and hard money advocate) and Russell Means (co-founder of the American Indian Movement), were good spokesmen for libertarian ideas. But delegates were clearly worried that both had come to the party with previous reputations. The anti-Paul material accused him of being weak on civil liberties. They distributed material he had written on abortion, on aids and an article he wrote for a John Bircher magazine but I couldn't see what all the fuss was about. The critics seemed to be reading things between the lines that I couldn't see. Delegates seemed assuaged that old party hands like Murray Rothbard lined up behind Paul.

The anti-Means group concentrated on Means' refusal to make clear libertarian statements. He refused to be pinned down on specifics,

choosing instead to talk vaguely about how "Indian" libertarianism was. Means was clearly the more dynamic speaker, but the party chose caution with Paul. Most delegates seemed to want a Paul-Means joint ticket, but after losing the presidential nomination on the first ballot, Means refused to be considered for the vice presidential position. The party instead, chose stalwart Andre Marrou, former Alaskan State Representative to help Paul keep on the straight and narrow libertarian path. The Paul-Marrou ticket should guarantee the best election results since 1980. Paul should be able to get publicity, raise money and attract newcomers. Marrou will keep the libertarians quiet. The convention itself was already partially successful in being able to attract coverage from the **NEW YORK TIME** and **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**, among others. Keep your eyes open for more items over the next year.

With an exciting election year coming up, now might be a good time to get back on the mailing list of the US Libertarian Party. Write: Libertarian National Committee, 301 W. 21st., Houston, TX 77008. Paul promised to raise \$5 million for his campaign. If you want to see the outrageous TV commercials he previewed in Seattle, send him a little donation. (HINT: The commercials are guaranteed to make all tax collectors flinch - well worth the dollars you send.)

In summary, thanks to the great organizing of the Seattle folks, the US party came out looking vigorous and eager to do new battle. Who can doubt that new victories lie ahead?

National Party Strategy Planned

by Bill Tomlinson

The 1987 Strategy and Tactics Conference held in Toronto, 22nd and 23rd August, was attended by 18 delegates representing Party membership right across the country from British Columbia to Newfoundland. The object of the exercise was to discuss ways of implementing the Libertarian Party goal, specifically: To help establish a non-coercive society in Canada. Opinions may vary as to the most effective way to achieve this, and of course no one need be committed to following only one path, but the consensus was that the mission of the party was to influence the parliamentary process by having Libertarians elected. With this in mind, we determined several specific objectives for the coming election. These were -

1. The establishment of 4 provincial parties.
2. To field 125 candidates in the next election.
3. To receive 50,000 votes nationwide.
4. To increase membership to 1,500.
5. To have a full-time staffed central office.

It was felt that these goals, which represent approximately double the activity at the last General Election are realistic. The strategists and tactics to be employed to reach our goals involve much more travel by our Party Leader, Dennis Corrigan, who has already visited Vancouver once in June and was featured in the local press and T.V.

Membership building should be simplified by a decision to reduce dues for Party membership to \$5 and extend membership to 5 years. (Membership in the G.V.L.A. automatically includes L.P.C. membership). Members can help in this regard by introducing their friends and colleagues to the movement. We can all help to improve the visibility of the Party by offering to stand as candidates, or by helping in election campaigns. Simply by having your name on a ballot, you can give other voters the opportunity to register an effective protest against the status quo and provide them with an effective alternative. If we are to be effective as a Party, it will only be because we as individuals have decided to get involved and have then carried through with our intentions and done something about it.

Right to Farm Association Holds First Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the right-to-Farm Association was held on Monday 21st September 1987 in Chilliwack, and was attended by about 30 members, mostly local, but some from as far afield as Armstrong. The Association now boasts a membership of about 150, comprised of both producers and consumers, although most of those present at the Meeting appeared to be producers. Malcolm Wright, founder of the organization, was elected President.

The mood of the majority was distinctly against the concept of supply management, but interestingly, also appeared to be very much in favour of 'protection'. It would appear that competition is only acceptable within certain geographical boundaries. It is, of course, only human

nature to want to maximize one's own opportunities for profit at the expense of somebody else, so it may be that the Association will have to decide whether it is to be purely a producer's group in which members will fight for what they regard as their own rather narrow self interest, or whether it truly is in favour of a free society. If they believe the former to be the correct position for them, then it would appear that the value of the Association to consumers is somewhat limited.

Nevertheless, we must applaud any efforts to remove the power of the Marketing Boards, and this reason alone may be sufficient to encourage us to support the Association.

Bill Tomlinson

HANS Drop Ball

24 August 1987

Lorna Hancock, Managing Editor
*Option; Journal for Complementary
Medicine*
Health Action Network Society
(HANS)
#11-3856 Sunset St.,
Burnaby, B.C., V5G 1T3

Dear Ms. Hancock,

I regret to inform you that the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association must withdraw its membership with the Health Action Network Society. We joined last year because we strongly supported your efforts to stop Health and Welfare Canada from interfering in the sales of health supplements from private health food stores. We are appalled that you have spent all of your time and effort since then advocating that the government do to others what you don't want them to do to you. I am referring to your attempts to get the government to prevent irradiated food from being produced and sold in Canada.

Libertarians do not oppose your efforts to educate and persuade Canadians about the possible dangers from irradiated food. We do object strongly to your efforts to get the government to forcibly prevent Canadians from making their own decisions in the marketplace. If you decide to once again advocate individual responsibility in health care (rather than paternalistic government regulation of other peoples choices), we will reconsider our decision.

Sincerely,

Paul Geddes, Vice President
Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association
207-6739 Royal Oak Ave.,
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 3P5

Liberty Snipits

Members may want to examine a recent Special Issue of the FRASER FORUM containing Alvin Rabushka's "Working Toward an Ideal Tax Code: US Tax Reform and the Canadian White Paper". Should libertarians advocate a less distorting tax or should we be opposed to all forms of tax?

(FRASER FORUM is available for \$3 an issue from The Fraser Institute, 626 Bute St., Vancouver, B.C. V6E 3M1)☛

Former Supper Club Speaker Doug Collins announces the publication of THE BEST & WORST OF DOUG COLLINS, a collection of his best (and most infamous) columns. The price is \$14.95 and you can order them from Whitecap Books Ltd., 1986 W. 3rd St., N. Vancouver V7P 3J6☛

Our own Tunya Audain is becoming a much requested speaker. She represented BC at the recent Seattle libertarian convention where she addressed the question: "Total Separation of State and School; Can the consumers of education regain control over the schools?" On the November 13 - 15 weekend, she will be addressing the Future of Freedom in Los Angeles. She will be presenting the prosecution's case when public education is put on trial. Don't forget Tunya's Home Learning Fair, Sunday November 8 at Columbia College, Burnaby. Admission is \$5 each or \$8 per family. There will be a full day of workshops, displays and discussions. The theme of this year's fair is "Liberty" and among the scheduled speakers will be Jack Boulogne, Paul Geddes and Bill Tomlinson.☛

After talking about it for a while, we decided to try an experimental advertising. If you pick up a recent issue of COMMON GROUND you'll see the results of our first \$190 effort. We are also considering running the following 40 word advertisement in 100+ community papers around the province, again for less than \$200.

"The Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association is interviewing Libertarian candidates for the next federal election. Send resumes. Libertarianism is the consistent political philosophy of freedom and liberty. We favor free enterprise and civil liberties. Write: 922 Cloverley St., North Vancouver, BC V7L 1N3".

We hereby announce the following contest: If you can write a better 40 word advert you win the prize of seeing your words around the province.☛

Campus organizing. Are there students out there? Paul Geddes (438-6127) has helped to start a club at Simon Fraser University. On club day, he attracted much comment with his Norma Jean Almodovar poster and handed out over a hundred copies of his latest political philosophy quiz. David Crawford (266-6498) and Jim Mutch are looking into getting something going at UBC. Also the latest edition of the alternative SFU student newspaper LIBERTE is expected out soon. Again there will be articles from the SFU Libertarians and the SFU Ayn Rand Club.☛

Dennis Corrigan announces that he will be travelling across Canada in October. He will be in Vancouver on Monday October 26.

Local libertarians have had a little exposure the last couple of months. As a BC school teacher not enamored with the BCTF, Jack Boulogne's opinion was reported a number of times in the recent controversy over unionization. Jack continues to get his letters into the PEACE ARCH NEWS, and SURREY LEADER. Bill Tomlinson is no slouch either and should receive a regular cheque from the NORTH SHORE NEWS for his frequent columns. Paul Geddes had a letter in the SUN about Marijuana and was interviewed on CJOR about having the state licence parents.☛

Transcription is complete of Walter Block's July 1986 talk to our Supper Club on "Objectivism v's Libertarianism; A Response to Peter Schwartz." We believe Laissez-Faire Books will be publishing this talk in booklet form.☛

Heavy Duty Club philosophy discussion at Kurt Pokrandt's: 189 Bonnymuir Drive, West Vancouver on Sunday October 25th, 7:00 p.m. Topic: Immigration.☛

Quite a collection of libertarian videos were purchased at the LP convention. Video nights will be announced soon.☛

Heard on the CBC

"Kingston: the only Canadian city with as many criminals per capita as Ottawa."

Free Jimmy Stevens

Jimmy Stevens has been in jail since November 1980 and it is time to put pressure on the government of Vanuatu to get him released. Prime Minister Walter Lini, will be in Vancouver October 13 - 17 for the Commonwealth conference giving a rare chance to make direct contact. We should make use of this opportunity.

Originally, Stevens was sentenced to fourteen years of prison (on eleven charges including incitement to rebellion, training an army and illegal arms possession), and two years were tacked on in 1982 when he managed a short lived escape. His crime? Jimmy Stevens is the leader of the Na-Griamel movement, primarily a native land ownership grievance movement, on the island of Espiritu Santo in the archipelago formerly called the New Hebrides in the South Pacific.

Steven's troubles began in the lead up to the July, 1980 declaration of independence of Vanuatu from the joint British-French colonial administration. Stevens had long been a political opponent of the newly elected Lini, a British educated Anglican priest. At the hear of Steven's Na-Griamel movement is the desire to protect native traditions (called 'custom') and native law from the outside world. Lini is the leader of a westernized left-leaning Vanuaaku party which looks up the Julius Nyerere of Tanzania to provide a model for Vanuatuan development.

Enmity between Steven's and the Lini types began as far back as the mid 1960s. In 1962, a large tract of land on Espiritu Santo, called Luganville and used by the Americans during WW II, was awarded to a French trading company despite the oral contracts governing the land under custom.

Na-Griamel was formed to regain control of this and other tracts. In 1967, Stevens was imprisoned for trespassing and encouraging followers to occupy and settle on the property. After a short prison stay, the Luganville settlement began in earnest with whole villages moving to the land. By 1968, the settlement was safe and Stevens, seeking wider horizons, made his first formal request to the United Nations for independence of the New Hebrides. He was ignored.

Stevens' movement was not the only anti-colonial movement. The more westernized National Party (later called Vanuaaku) developed along different lines and appealed more to the newly educated clerks and school teachers. In elections held beginning in 1975, amidst charges of vote fraud, both types of ideas showed signs of support.

In December, 1975 Stevens impatiently declared independence for the northern islands and ordered the colonial government to leave. Two chiefs presented copies of a declaration of sovereignty with polls showing overwhelming support among the 26,000 northern natives to the United Nations in New York. The colonial government refused to withdraw and Steven's suffered lost credibility but not much else happened.

In the 1977 elections the socialist Vanuaaku lost big, and a moderate party friendly to Na-Griamel was elected. Vanuaaku chose to ignore the chief minister and decided instead to make their own declaration of independence, setting up a new People's Provisional Government.

In 1979 amidst more charges of fraud, Vanuaaku returned to power and Lini was elected prime minister. Many were concerned with a vague national constitution declared without a vote by Lini. A convention of twenty chiefs representing every island produced an alternative one that Lini initially agreed to adopt. When Lini eventually rejected this document, rebellions began on two islands, but only the Espiritu Santo one succeeded in driving out the colonial government. This is what was reported around the world in June, 1980 as the "Bow and Arrow Rebellion". Both the French refused to intervene since no violence was occurring. Finally, in September, Lini borrowed troops from nearby Papua New Guinea, invaded Espiritu Santo and captured Jimmy Stevens.

Libertarians are concerned about Jimmy Stevens because much of the June, 1980 media fofoorah concentrated on the interference in native affairs of some "mysterious, right wing, American nuts" called libertarians. The *ECONOMIST* (7 June 1980) claimed that "it may have been frustration at their home prospects that made them run, against their principles to the South Seas."

The main libertarian contact was Mike Oliver, a Nevada real estate developer with a dream of acquiring territory with full sovereignty for the establishment of a completely libertarian, free enterprise country. He first met Stevens in 1970 and after negotiations, Stevens allowed Oliver to market Na-Griamel coins. Oliver also sent an associate in 1975 to stay with Stevens to make sure that Stevens was genuinely interested in free enterprise. Stevens had a reputation of manipulating wealthy Westerners for his own ends. This associate helped build a small radio station and convinced Oliver that Stevens was a genuine article. Oliver also persuaded John Hospers, the 1972 Libertarian Presidential

candidate, to help Stevens draft a constitution in 1976. (This beautiful document is reprinted in *REASON*, September 1980, p. 36-7.) This constitutes fairly benign interference in the affairs of a foreign country. It also ranks below the thousands of dollars donated by the World Council of Churches to Lini or the fact that the Australian Communist Party printed the Vanuaaku party paper.

Although outsiders did try to help, the conflict was mainly local. Even Vancouver anarchist writer George Woodcock who met Stevens while researching a book on the area suggests that the conflict was between traditional custom and the new westernized bureaucratic class. (*VANCOUVER FREE PRESS*, June 27, 1980) Local French plantation owners sided with Stevens probably believing him to be the lesser of evils. But this only gave Lini more ammunition to use against Na-Griamel.

Stevens is an interesting man described as charismatic, cunning and messianic. The Luganville settlement was run as a voluntary commune centered around Stevens, his numerous wives and offspring. His preferred weapon is oratory which he apparently delivers in florid pidgin English. He also commands great loyalty. The *FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW* reported in 1985 that followers still wait at Luganville for Jimmy's return.

Meanwhile Lini's government continues to conternate other South Pacific governments. It "pledged solidarity with Ghaddafi" after the April 1986 US raid on Tripoli. It signed fishing agreement with the Soviet Union in February 1987. US Senator Kasten (Wisconsin) tabulated that in 1985, Vanuatu voted with the US in the UN only 13.4% of the time compared with, for example, New Zealand's 55.3%. Meanwhile, the economy has turned down thanks in part to a huge increase in indirect taxes. The other politicians know something is wrong. National elections are expected this year and already three new parties have formed to contest them.

But Jimmy Stevens languishes in prison away from his people. He is a political prisoner. He is peaceful. In the 1980 troubles only two lives were lost and one was Stevens' son. **FREE JIMMY STEVENS.** His imprisonment is a blot on an, as yet, fairly liberal regime. But it's a sign of things to come. If they treat their peaceful opponents this way, how will they treat future citizens who don't want to participate in Lini's Tanzanian utopia? **FREE-JIMMY STEVENS.**

by Paul Geddes

Membership News

Many of you undoubtedly received membership renewal forms with a stamped return envelope recently. Please help us clean up our membership list by mailing them to us. No space was provided for name, address and postal code so please write these in on the bottom of the form.

In the future your mailing label should carry a code (M, A, or I) and an expiry date at which time you will receive your last newsletter (unless you renew).

Membership (M status)

Costs \$5 for 5 years. You will be notified of the Annual General Meeting each spring but if you wish to receive our newsletter, keep your subscription current. Cost \$10/year.

Associate (A status)

Your subscription is current but you have not (yet) signed the statement of principles.

Interested (I status)

You will receive a maximum of 3 complimentary issues at which time you will become so attracted by the ideas you see, that you will become a member or an associate.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party of Canada, support the following principles:

1. Each individual has the right to his or her own life and this right is the source of all other rights.
2. Property rights are essentials to the maintenance of those rights.
3. In order that these rights be respected it is essential that no individual or group initiate the use of force or fraud against any other.
4. In order to bar the use of force or fraud from social relationships and to place the use of retaliatory force under objective control, human society requires an institution charged with the task of protecting individual rights under an objective code of rule. This is the basic task of, and the only moral justification for, government.
5. The only proper functions of government, whose powers must constitutionally limited, are:
 - A. settling, according to objective laws, disputes among individuals where private, voluntary arbitration has failed;
 - B. providing protection from criminals;
 - C. providing protection from foreign invaders.
6. As a consequence of all the above, every individual - as long as he or she respects the rights of others - has the right to live as he or she alone sees fit as a free trader on a free market.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CANADA VOTING MEMBERSHIP requires a signature.
I hereby certify that I believe in and promise to uphold the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party of Canada.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CALENDAR

- 25th October -----Heavy Duty Libertarian Club. Topic: Immigration
26th October -----Dennis Corrigan - Leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada. Visiting town for media events and speaking engagements
27th October -----Libertarian Action Group
8th November -----5th Annual Home Learning Fair - Columbia College
15th November ---- Future of Freedom Conference - Self Advocates Summit, Los Angeles

REGULAR EVENTS

1st Sunday of every month - Board of Directors Meeting - 10.00 a.m.
Bill Tomlinson's home. Everyone welcome

Return Address:

The Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association
922 Cloverley St.,
North Vancouver, B.C.
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Address Correction Requested



Marco den Duden

M 25/88

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