

Hawai`i Libertarian

Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii

Vol. 19, No. 10, October 2001



From the Chair By Roger Taylor

Our main focus continues to be that of finishing up our ballot access job. To date we have turned in 435 signatures with 292 of them being valid for a success rate of 67%. At this rate we need about 600 more raw signatures. We will finish this activity by the end of January. (Period) Thus, we will have until the end of December to do our best with our volunteer efforts. At that time we will pay market rates for valid signatures (\$1-\$2) Tracy Ryan has introduced a new friend to the party, Christina Marsh, who collected about 70 signatures at a rally. Tracy offered to pay Christina \$1 per for all valid signatures gathered after the event and I received approval from the executive committee to reimburse Tracy.

Our October meeting will be focused on the relationship the Libertarian Party has to minors. Government defaults passage into adulthood to the age of 18. Conversations I have had in the past have led me to the sovereign belief that passage into physical adulthood happens at puberty and passage into emotional adulthood can begin at any age and will be a continuing area to grow and mature in. Thus, I default the ending of minorship to puberty. Some have said this isn't practical, but framing it that way keeps my mind straight. The way things are set up now, many 18 year olds who don't handle adult responsibilities very well become legal adults and many youngsters under 18 who do act as responsible beings are discriminated against or are the target of demeaning behavior. Compulsory education is an example. What are your thoughts on this? We will be looking at Government, Public and Private education, the Felix vs. Waihee mess, the rights of a child in a divorce situation, as well as other aspects of age status at our Open Forum in October. Join us.

For the present and near future we will be holding our Executive Committee meetings in the Straub Clinic at 888 South King. We will congregate at 6 pm in the cafeteria on the third Sunday of each month. All members are invited. This month it will be October 21st. ✍

The Security of a Free State

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Those are the words of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The security of a free state has clearly been threatened. On each of four airplanes, terrorists armed only with box cutters and small knives took over the jets and use them as guided bombs against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. On each of four airliners, the passengers and crew, expecting the security and protection they were promised by the government, possessed neither the proper tools, nor the mindset, with which to defend themselves. FAA rules, and a host of state and federal firearms laws denied the opportunity for these innocent victims of terrorism to save their own lives, and with that the lives of 5,000 other innocents. Only on the fourth jet, where the passengers learned that their craft would be plowed into yet another building to kill countless others, did they summon the courage to charge their attackers and try to wrest control of the airplane back. I submit that, had even a few of the passengers and crew been properly armed, the fates of those four flights, and those of the occupants of the World Trade Center and Pentagon, would have been quite different.

Many will be taken aback by my suggestion to allow aircraft passengers and crew to travel armed. But is this idea truly dangerous, or does it only sound so because we've been so accustomed to delegating our protection to others? For instance, the pilots and crew are in control of these flying

Announcements

Monthly Meeting Tuesday, Oct 2nd
6:30 - 8:00 PM

2500 Pali Highway

Sad state of affairs in our government school system including the convoluted special ed Felix situation. Libertarian alternatives will be explored.

Executive Committee Meeting:

Sunday October 21st 6:00 PM

888 South King Street
Corner of King and Ward. Straub
Clinic Presentation Room , ground
floor behind the cafeteria.

All members welcome.

Meetings and Hike

<http://www.hi.lp.org/meet.htm>

Call for Papers

Articles on timely topics are welcome, and will be printed subject to space limitations, provided they do not grossly contradict Libertarian policies. Please send all contributions by email if possible. Don't bother with fancy formatting. I reformat everything before printing. If you are a Macintosh user, the best approach is to include all contributions in the body of an email message, rather than as an attachment, although my Windows machine can probably read a MS Word document produced on a Mac. ✉

Join the Libertarian Party

On Line: Visit the National Party website at <http://www.lp.org>, click on the *Join Us!* Button, and follow the instructions there. While there, look around! You'll find lots of useful info.

By Mail: Call the Hawaii office at (808) 537-3078, or call any of the names listed on the back page, and ask for a membership application. When it comes, fill it out, sign it, and mail it with a check for the annual dues of \$25 to:

Libertarian Party HQ
2600 Virginia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

fuel tanks already. We trust them with the lives of hundreds (and thousands, given our recent example). By what rationale do we deny them the means with which to defend those lives? Are men and women who can be trained to operate the flower of modern technology not capable of learning to handle firearms? Or of exercising proper discretion and judgment in such use? Surely we can agree that airline crews could exercise the duty to protect their passengers as responsibly as any "sky marshal". Further, our experience in the thirty-plus states that have shall-issue concealed carry firearms laws in place shows that civilian permittees are more responsible than even the police, to whom they must apply for their licenses. You can find more police in any one of a number of cities who have committed more crimes with guns than you will find among all the legal permittees across the country.

In an old episode of the sitcom "All in the Family" Archie Bunker (played by the late Carroll O'Connor) suggested that airline passengers be given firearms upon check-in to combat the rash of Cuban hijackings back in the 70's, and turn the guns back in at the end of each flight. Norman Lear, the show's producer and quintessential liberal, was using satire to show how dangerous and absurd he thought the personal ownership and use of firearms was. However, the data shows that instead of increasing gun deaths and crime, the increasingly exercised right to carry has resulted in decreases of same. Pistol caliber, ammunition velocity and composition, and training for passengers are all considerations for the airlines to handle. At the time this goes to press, it is being reported that the Brazilian legislature has passed just such a measure over its president's veto. I can't confirm this story yet, but I would like to believe that somewhere in the world there is common sense and courage at work, even if it isn't the United States. That this proposal sounds rash is a sad commentary on our condition today. Two hundred and ten years after the adoption of the Bill of Rights, which includes the first ten Amendments to the United States Constitution, we have divested ourselves of our right and our most sacred responsibility to defend ourselves, our families, and our nation by giving it over to a government which can not and will not do it for us. Instead are proposed numerous laws to curtail yet more liberties, to reduce yet more of our rights and freedoms, supposedly in the name of security.

Ben Franklin said it best, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." If we do not soon reclaim our inalienable right to keep and bear arms, and our responsibility to use that right in our own defense, we will lose what remaining freedoms we still enjoy. And we will deserve to.

Jim O'Keefe ✉

Get Online with Hawaiian Libertarians

Our Website Home Page: <http://www.hi.lp.org>
Open Discussion Group: lph-discuss@topica.com
Announcements: lph-announce@topica.com
National LP Website Home Page: <http://www.lp.org>

It Is Time to Declare War

By [Leonard Peikoff](#)

September 19, 2001—Fifty years of increasing American appeasement in the Mideast have led to fifty years of increasing contempt in the Muslim world for the U.S. The climax was the thousands of deaths on September 11, 2001—the blackest day in our history, so far. The Palestinians, illustrating the region's hatred of what Iran calls "the Great Satan," responded to America's agony by dancing in the streets and handing out candy.

Fifty years ago, Truman and Eisenhower surrendered the West's property rights in oil, although that oil rightfully belonged to those in the West whose science, technology, and capital made its discovery and use possible. The first country to nationalize a Western oil company, in 1951, was Iran. The rest, observing our frightened silence, hurried to grab off their piece of the newly available loot.

The cause of the U.S. silence was not practical, but philosophical. The Arab dictators were denouncing wealthy egotistical capitalism. They were crying that their poor needed our sacrifice; that oil, like all property, is owned collectively, by virtue of birth; and that they knew their viewpoint was true by means of otherworldly emotion. Our Presidents had no answer. Implicitly, they were ashamed of the Declaration of Independence. They did not dare to answer aloud that Americans, properly, were motivated by the selfish desire to achieve personal happiness in a rich, secular, individualist society.

The Arabs embodied in extreme form every idea—selfless duty, anti-materialism, faith or feeling above science, the supremacy of the group—which our universities, our churches, and our own political Establishment had long been upholding as the essence of virtue. When two groups, our leadership and theirs, accept the same basic ideas, the most consistent side wins.

After property came liberty. In the first year of his theocratic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini kidnapped 52 U.S. diplomatic personnel in Iran and held them hostage; Carter's reaction was fumbling paralysis. About a decade later, Iran topped this evil. Khomeini issued his infamous Fatwa aimed at preventing the publication, even outside his borders, of ideas uncongenial to Muslim sensibility. This was the meaning of his threat to kill the British author Rushdie and to destroy his American publisher; their crime was the exercise of their right to express an unpopular intellectual viewpoint. Here was government censorship on the widest scale. It was Iran's attempt, reaffirmed after Khomeini's death, to stifle, anywhere in the world, the very process of thought. Bush Sr. looked the other way.

After liberty came American life itself, which had been inviolate from foreign murder-networks for two centuries. The first killers were the Palestinian hijackers of the late 1960s. But the killing spree which has now shattered our soaring landmarks, our daily routine, and our souls, began in earnest

only after the license granted by Carter and Bush Sr.

Many nations work to fill our body bags. But Iran, according to a State Department report of 1999, is "the most active state sponsor of terrorism," training and arming groups from all over the Mideast, including Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and Hezbollah. Nor is Iran's government now "moderating." Less than five months ago, the world's leading terrorist groups met and resolved to unite in a holy war against the U.S., which they called "a second Israel"; this meeting was held in Teheran. (Fox News, 9/16/01)

What has been the U.S. response to the above? In 1996, nineteen U.S. soldiers were killed in their barracks in Saudi Arabia. According to a front-page story in *The New York Times* (6/21/98): "Evidence suggesting that Iran sponsored the attack has further complicated the investigation, because the United States and Saudi Arabia have recently sought to improve relations with a new, relatively moderate Government in Teheran." In other words, Clinton evaded Iran's role because he wanted, in his words, "a genuine reconciliation." In public, of course, he continued to vow that he would find and punish the guilty. Clinton's inaction in this instance is comparable to his action after bin Laden's attack on U.S. embassies in East Africa; his action was the gingerly bombing of two meaningless targets.

Conservatives are equally responsible for today's crisis, as Reagan's record attests. Reagan not only failed to retaliate after 241 U.S. marines were slaughtered in Lebanon; he did worse. Holding that Islamic guerrillas were our ideological allies because of their fight against the atheistic Soviets, he methodically poured money and expertise into Afghanistan. This put the U.S. wholesale into the business of creating terrorists. Most of them regarded fighting the Soviets as only the beginning; our turn soon came.

For more than a decade, there was a further guarantee of American impotence: the claim that a terrorist is a man alone responsible for his actions, and that each, therefore, must be tried as an individual before a court of law. This viewpoint, thankfully, is fading; most people now understand that terrorists exist only through the sanction and support of a government.

We do not need to prove the identity of any of these creatures, because terrorism is not an issue of personalities. It cannot be stopped by destroying bin Laden and his army (although I hope they are already dead)—or even by destroying the destroyers everywhere. If that is all we do, a new army of militants will soon rise up to replace the old one.

The behavior of such militants is that of the regimes which make them possible. Their atrocities are not crimes, but acts of war. The proper response to such acts, as the public now understands, is a war in self-defense. In the excellent words of Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defense, we must "end states who sponsor terrorism."

Ending a state requires a war fought without self-crippling restrictions placed on our commanders in the field. It requires a real war, not the halfway fiasco or the public-relations charade of the Bush-Clinton years. These requirements rule out a coalition with the U.N., and especially with any terrorist nation(s)—which latter is the equivalent of going into

partnership with the Soviet Union in order to fight Communism (under the pretext, say, of proving that we are not anti-Russian).

If America's President were to court a Mideastern coalition, it would be an admission that he needs the approval of terrorist nations in order to fight them. It would be a public declaration that the world's only superpower does not have enough self-confidence to act unilaterally in its own defense. Better to do nothing than to flaunt such moral cowardice, and thereby to invite into our cities the next wave of suicide-seekers.

If we do not wage a proper war now, then when? If our appeasement has led to an escalation of disasters in the past, can it do otherwise in the future? Do we wait until the terrorists unleash against us the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons they are rushing to get hold of?

The future of America is at stake. The risk of a U.S. overreaction, therefore, is negligible. The only risk is underreaction.

A proper war is one fought with the most effective weapons we possess (Rumsfeld reportedly refuses, correctly, to rule out nuclear weapons). And it is one fought in the manner most beneficial to the American cause, regardless of the suffering and death this will bring to countless innocents caught in the line of fire. Only this approach ensures that the war will be won as quickly as possible, and with the fewest American casualties.

The public understandably demands immediate retaliation against Afghanistan. But in the wider context Afghanistan is insignificant. It is too physically devastated even to breed many fanatics. Since it is no more these days than a place to hide, its elimination would do little to end terrorism.

Terrorism is a specific disease, which can be treated only by a specific antidote. The nature of the disease (though not of its antidote) is suggested by Serge Schmemmann in *The New York Times* (9/16/01). Our struggle now, he writes in part, is "not a struggle against a conventional guerrilla force, whose yearning for a national homeland or the satisfaction of some grievance could be satisfied or denied. The terrorists [on Tuesday] . . . issued no demands, no ultimatums. They did it solely out of grievance and hatred—hatred for the values cherished in the West as freedom, tolerance, prosperity, religious pluralism and universal suffrage, but abhorred by religious fundamentalists (and not only Muslim fundamentalists) as licentiousness, corruption, greed and apostasy."

Every word of this is true. The obvious implication is that the struggle against terrorism is ultimately a struggle of ideas, which can be dealt with only by intellectual and philosophical means. But this fact does not depreciate the crucial role of our armed forces. On the contrary, it increases their effectiveness, by pointing them to the right target.

Most of the Mideast is ruled by range-of-the-moment thugs who would be paralyzed by an American victory over any one of their neighbors. Iran, however, is the only major country in the region ruled by zealots dedicated not to material gain (such as more wealth or territory), but to the triumph by any means, however violent, of Islamic fundamentalism. This is why Iran manufactures the most terrorists.

If one were under a Nazi aerial bombardment, it would be senseless to restrict one's defensive efforts to Nazi satellites while ignoring Germany and the ideological plague it is working to spread. What Germany was to Nazism in the 1940s, Iran is to terrorism today. Whatever other countries it strikes, therefore, the U.S. can put an end to the Jihad-mongers only by taking out Iran.

We must not only wipe out Iran's terrorist sanctuaries, its training camps, and its military capability. We must also do the equivalent of de-Nazifying the country, by expelling every official and bringing down every branch of its government. This is a goal that cannot be achieved painlessly, by bombs and missiles alone. It requires invasion by ground troops, who will be at serious risk, and perhaps a period of occupation. But nothing less will "end the state" that most cries out to be ended.

The greatest obstacle to U.S. victory is not Iran and its allies, but our own intellectuals. Even now, they are preaching the same ideas that led to our historical paralysis. They are asking a reeling nation, in the name of "restraint," to apply only economic and diplomatic pressures, like those that have failed so spectacularly and for so long. The multiculturalist professors are pushing "understanding" in the name of avoiding "racism" (i.e., any condemnation of "another culture"). The friends of "love" are reminding us, not too loudly yet, of our duty to turn the other cheek.

The Superintendent of Schools in San Diego led a discussion of the bin Laden attack in an eleventh-grade history class. Among other things, he asked the students to empathize with the feelings that the event would engender in a Palestinian; and also "to compare the victims killed in the World Trade Center with those who died in Hiroshima." (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, 9/13/01)

These are the kinds of voices that will be heard increasingly in the universities, the churches, and the media as the country recovers from its first shock, and the professoriate et al. feel emboldened once again to conduct their ideological "business as usual." These voices are a siren song luring us to untroubled sleep while the fanatics proceed to gut America.

We can avert the catastrophe only if our government is courageous enough to hold out against the siren-singers. This requires, at minimum, that our bombs and troops be accompanied by our President's passionately righteous statement that we have broken with the clichés of our paper-tiger past and that the U.S. now places America first.

Mr. Bush must make it clear that we regard the war against terrorism as a sacred obligation to our Founding Fathers, to every victim of the men who hate this country, and to ourselves. He must make the world understand that hereafter, as a matter of principle, we will always and everywhere take up arms to secure an American's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness here on earth.

The choice today is mass death in the United States or mass death in the terrorist nations. Our Commander-In-Chief must decide whether it is his duty to save Americans or the governments who conspire to kill them.

THE ARMED CITIZEN

Studies indicate that firearms are used over 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life or limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings to: "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030.

ARMED CITIZEN - JANUARY 1992

An armed robber was preparing to handcuff Astoria, New York, shopkeeper Robert Knight when Knight seized the opportunity to act. Stooping down, he pulled a pistol from an ankle holster. Both men fired at the same time, but Knight, who has a license for the gun, hit his target, seriously wounding him.

(The Daily News, New York City, NY, 09/21/91)

As her husband grappled with one of two men who tried to rob their rural Albert, Alabama, store, Menda Pettway picked up a pistol the couple keeps for protection. Firing a single shot, she hit her husband's assailant in the leg, stopping the attack. The man and his confederate fled, but were later apprehended by police. "We're so far away from the law that it's usually up to us to protect our own businesses," a neighbor said. (The Advertiser, Montgomery, AL, 10/12/91)

Her family taken hostage by her daughter's ex-boyfriend, Barbara Holt of Kearns, Utah, and her husband were threatened with death, then forced into the bathroom of their home. When the man, armed with a rifle, went into the kitchen with her daughter, Holt slipped into the bedroom and got her .22 pistol. "I was hiding in the corner and when he came out of the kitchen, I just pulled the trigger," Holt said. Her single shot hit the man in the head and stopped the attack.

(The Tribune, Salt Lake City, UT, 10/21/91)

John Hercules was working at his Nashville, Tennessee, jewelry store when two teenagers entered, displayed a gun and attempted to rob the business. When Hercules confronted the pair, one shot him in the shoulder. Hercules returned fire and fatally wounded his attacker. The other robber fled but was arrested soon after. Police said he confessed to several other robberies.

(The Banner, Nashville, TN, 09/12/91)

Two men and a woman intent on burglarizing a Cowan, Indiana, home never got inside after they saw what was behind door number one. When the trio kicked the door down, the homeowner was waiting for them with a loaded shotgun, and informed them he would use it if they entered. The three fled, but two suspects were later captured by police.

(The Star, Muncie, IN, 10/10/91)

William DeMar was at the Riviera Beach, Florida, service station where he works when he noticed two men holding a gun on his boss, Dave Bowers, and Bowers' father. Drawing the handgun he keeps at the garage, DeMar opened fire on the

pair, wounding one and stopping the robbery. The wounded man drove away but was later arrested. The other robber also tried to flee, but Bowers grabbed his own pistol and captured the man a short distance away.

(The Post, Palm Beach, FL, 09/13/91)

Awakened by his five-year-old daughter, who told him a window had fallen out in her room, Darryl Padgett picked up a flashlight but abandoned it for a .22 rifle when a man came through the window. When his order to halt was ignored, Padgett shot the man twice and waited until police showed up to arrest the intruder. "I've taken care of my family all my life," Padgett said. "The old ways are the best ways."

(The Californian, Bakersfield, CA, 10/12/91)

When John Graves, 81, of Greensboro, North Carolina, took the trash out at night, he also took a pistol. He needed it one evening when someone grabbed him. Noticing the would-be robber had two accomplices, Graves pulled his pistol and shot and wounded the teenager. "All the evidence showed that he was defending himself," the local prosecutor said.

(The News & Record, Greensboro, NC, 09/20/91)

When a car pulled into the driveway of a vacant house across the street, Sara Lott of Salley, South Carolina, picked up a pistol and, along with a friend, went to investigate. The man in the car told Lott he was waiting for his girlfriend, but she recognized the car as having been stolen from a neighbor's home. Lott held the man, recently released from prison, at gunpoint for police. (The State, Columbia, SC, 10/03/91)

A 44-year-old San Francisco woman, allegedly raped by a man who, despite a court order while awaiting trial, continued to harass and threaten her, found herself being pursued by the man while out for a drive early one morning. When he blocked her car with his own, got out and pulled a gun, the woman pulled her own pistol and, firing through the windshield of her car, shot and mortally wounded her assailant. (The Chronicle, San Francisco, CA, 09/15/91)

Anwan Farrooq was behind the counter of his Richmond, Virginia, convenience store when three men entered. As two approached the counter with beer, the third pulled a handgun and opened fire. Hit in the chest by one of the bullets, Farrooq was saved by his steel lined flak jacket. **(Note: Bullet proof vests are illegal in Hawaii)** Pulling his own pistol, Farrooq mortally wounded the gunman and wounded one of the accomplices. The third fled. Farrooq began wearing the armored vest when a friend was robbed.

(The News Leader, Richmond, VA, 10/10/91)

Lulah Lavery was home with her daughter at their Richford, Vermont, home when they heard the sounds of a forced entry. As her daughter phoned police, Lavery loaded a shotgun and went to investigate. Finding a man reaching through a broken backdoor window, Lavery fired a single blast. The man fled, but a wounded suspect was quickly apprehended.

(The Messenger, St. Albans, VT, 10/11/91)

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