

NEW RAMPART

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Sandy Shaw

1984 Brings 12th Future Of Freedom Conf.

Perhaps George Orwell would be somewhat relieved to know that by the time 1984 arrived, the oldest ongoing libertarian conference in the world would be preparing to hold its twelfth such event.

The 1984 Future of Freedom Conference will happen October 19, 20 and 21st at Cal. State University—Long Beach (Student Union Building). The majority of the dozen or so heavyweight speakers will appear on Saturday and Sunday. The only event on Friday will be the Ayn Rand Tribute Banquet at the Long Beach Holiday Inn, along with the Mencken Awards presented by Jeff Rigenbach.

One of the main featured speakers will be Sandy Shaw, co-author of "Life Extension" with Durk Pearson. A life extension researcher, Shaw's speech is entitled "the Biochemistry of Freedom"; Edith Efron, investigative writer and author, on "Cancer and the Big Lie"; author Ruth Hill on "Ayn Rand meets Hiawatha" and Barbara Branden speaking at the Ayn Rand Tribute Banquet.

Other speakers include: Robert LeFevre, Jay Snelson, Barry Reid, Tom Hazlett, Prof. Bernard Siegan, Prof. Tibor Machan, and Manny Klausner. A panel called "How to Remain Free and Prevent War" will put together Prof. Leonard Liggio, Prof. John Hospers and George Smith. Another treat will be a speech by Jack Wheeler, the Indiana Jones of the libertarian movement. Wheeler will talk about his activities in Afghanistan and Angola.

Write to FOF Conf. Box 26044, Santa Ana, CA 92799 for more information or call (714) 979-5737.

L.A. Supper Club Returns With Nathaniel Branden

Under the new management of Linda T. Abrams, the L.A. Libertarian Supper Club will end its summer hiatus with a September 19 program, an Evening with Dr. Nathaniel Branden. The event, which is co-sponsored by Rampart Institute will include "What will we do if the Apocalypse doesn't come?" —and other intriguing inquiries.

Dr. Branden, a psychologist and Director of the Biocentric Institute, is the author of "The Psychology of Self-Esteem", "The Disowned Self", "Breaking Free", "The Psychology of Romantic Love", "If You Could Hear What I Cannot Say", and "Honoring the Self". Dr. Branden was formerly the Director of the Nathaniel Branden Institute and has been an influential lecturer, writer, and theoretician for many years in libertarian and Objectivist circles.

This evening's program will mark ten years since Dr. Branden last addressed the Los Angeles Libertarian Supper Club. His return appearance promises to be a special

(Continued on page 2)

Who's Burning Boston? Firefighters/Police Accused

Indictment say 7 men set 163 fires to protest tax-cutting measure that forced layoffs

BOSTON — Federal officials charged Wednesday that a group of men that include policed officers, firefighters and private security guards set the string of fires that brought Boston the nationally reported title of "arson capitol of the world" two years ago.

The fires were set, according to U.S. attorney William Weld, to scare the public into supporting more positions for police officers and firefighters at a time when property-tax reductions had reduced their ranks. Federal agents arrested six men in three states in July, and a seventh surrendered in Boston. Two of the defendants were armed when arrested. The five arrested in the Boston area pleaded innocent at a hearing.

Weld said the 83-count federal indictment is believed to constitute "the largest single arson case in history, state or federal, in terms of the number of fires involved."

The indictment alleges that beginning sometime after July 1981, as the effect of a statewide taxcutting measure forced layoffs of many police officers and firefighters in Massachusetts, the members of the group set 163 fires in Boston and in nine surrounding cities and towns.

The outlying fires were set to divert investigators away from Boston, the indictment said. It also said defendants who worked for a security company burned a client's

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NEW RAMPART

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(BURNING BOSTON, Cont. from frontpage)

building to distract attention from themselves.

The buildings burned included houses, churches, factories, restaurants, a Marine Corps barracks and the Massachusetts Fire Academy. A total of 281 people were injured in the fires.

The fires listed in the indictment grew in frequency and number over the months. They stirred deep public apprehension, generated local and national news accounts, and two years ago resulted in the federal investigation that produced the indictments.

The indictments and arrests were announced by an assembly of federal and state officials that included district attorneys from five counties, FBI officials and Stephen E. Higgins, director of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

One district attorney called the case "the most frightening and bizarre criminal conspiracy I have ever seen."

Higgins held up copies of Boston magazines of the period which published cover articles that asked: "Who's Burning Boston?"

"We're here today because we think these charges are a step toward answering that question," Higgins said.

The indictments allege perjury, obstruction of justice, threatening of witnesses and destruction of evidence, as well as conspiracy.

Affidavits presented at a federal bail hearing further allege that one of the defendants threatened to kill the supervisor of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who led the investigation.

Other defendants, the affidavits allege, urged a Boston police officer who already had pleaded guilty in the case to flee to Canada before sentencing. He subsequently was sentenced to state and federal prison terms and is expected to be a witness in the federal trials.

Material from the New York Times, Dudley Clendinen

"A commonwealth is always in greater danger from its citizens than its enemies, for the good are few."

—Spinoza

We Welcome Letters to the Editor!

We will print most letters to the editor. Letters should be 400 words or less. In some cases we will allow longer letters. Write to: Letters, Rampart Institute, Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632.

U.S. To Shred Unused Gas Coupons

PUEBLO, Colo. — The federal government plans this week to begin shredding 4.8 billion gasoline-rationing coupons printed during the 1974 Arab oil embargo but never used, the Department of Energy says.

James Merna, director of public affairs, said officials decided to shred and bury the coupons because they resemble \$1 bills and might be fraudulently used in dollar-changing machines. The coupons have been in storage at a government facility here for the past decade.

It cost the Bureau of Engraving and Printing about \$12 million to print the coupons, Merna said, and it will cost \$145,000 to destroy them.

The most interesting part about the admitted shredding of the gas rationing coupons is that government authorities denied their existence. They denied they were thinking about printing coupons or that they had printed them. Now, nine years later, another administration says they are going to destroy coupons that were said to never have existed. Could there be other things our government is not telling us. Makes you wonder.

(L.A. SUPPER CLUB, Cont. from frontpage)

opening event for the Supper Club's 1984-85 season.

The location of this program will be the well-known Coronet Room of the Cockatoo Inn, 4334 W. Imperial Highway (near Los Angeles International Airport). The scheduled times are 7:00 pm for dinner (non-diners welcome after 8:00 pm) with the program beginning at 8:30 pm.

Because of the large audiences Dr. Branden's rare appearances attract, prepaid dinner reservations for this special program are required by mail! The address for the \$5 program only or \$10.50/\$17.00 dinner and program package is L.A. Supper Club, c/o Abrams, 10368 Ashton Avenue, L.A., CA 90024. The deadline for reservations is September 14 (postmarked). No telephone reservations will be accepted for this event.

Upcoming programs for the L.A. Libertarian Supper Club include John Pugsley on October 15 and Robert LeFevre on November 12.

Middle Class Shrinking

It was reported in the "New York Times" that Prof. Stephen Rose of Baltimore noted that the middle class shrank from 55% in 1978 to 42% in 1983, with 3 out of 4 going downward. The Urban Institute noted a 9.4% drop in disposable income among the poorest 20% of the population, and, while richest 20% had a 5% decline in taxes, the poorest 20% had a 2% increase.

The Bare Facts On Some Peaceful Protesters

By Robert LeFevre

For years some of my acquaintances, but none of my friends, have called me a "pacifist." I have never been particularly alarmed at this slander, probably because I have never thought of myself as particularly peaceful.

Of course I favor peace. Unless a person is a terrorist or dedicated to achievement through violence, most people favor peace. My problem with some who say they are pacifists is their militancy. They seem ready to kill anyone who differs from their view. Many of today's doves are sprouting hawk feathers.

John Kidd recently sent me a story about a group of pacifists who live in British Columbia. I had earlier learned about the group from another friend, Rose Wilder Lane, who had lived near them at one time. The group is called the Doukhobors.

This is a Russian Christian sect upset both with war-making threats of the country of their origin and from the United States. They want peace enough to fight for it. Or so it appears.

They don't like capitalism, they don't like communism. Actually they are innocent of any economic information. They believe in hard work as farmers, the Christian faith, and being let alone.

They also have a fabulous way of showing displeasure. When Lane told me about the group, she said they became enraged principally if people tried to enact legislation to restrict them in any way.

Their method of protest is unique. The person (or group) feeling threatened by incursion of any kind, including taxation, simply takes off his or her clothes. Men and women, regardless of age or condition, go nude when challenged!

Not since the Boston Tea Party has anything quite so startling been done to protest taxation, and I feel a grudging sense of debt to the Doukhobors for reminding me of the impact of bare facts.

Getting back to nature is only phase one. Not all the Doukhobors subscribe to the next steps, practiced by a sub-group, a kind of cult within the sect, called "Freedomites." They cling to the old ways.

Once the protesters are completely nude (they leave on their shoes), they have a parade. They march down the main street of town, doing the infantry version of the Godiva cavalry.

I recall seeing a photograph of them from the Associated Press. There were about 15 to 18 bare backsides bravely struggling through falling snow, bent against gale-force winds. As a demonstration of fortitude, the picture was a classic (although I'm certain Hugh Hefner didn't give it a second glance).

The third step, however, was the big one. When the parade ended, dedicated members of the sect, following their leader, a man named Peter Lordly Virgin, took lighted torches and set fire to their own crops, farm houses, shops and businesses. Schools and churches were not spared. They left a scorched earth and moved to another area.

Of course, the government looks at this sect as though it consists of arsonists and terrorists. Ordinary people,

though, say the Doukhobors are the best neighbors in the world. Undoubtedly one factor is their market practice: the Doukhobors raise excellent crops, and sell at prices consistently lower than other producers. If potatoes are \$5 per bushel, they will sell for \$4.50.

However, when Doukhobors go into the market as buyers and wish to purchase, say, blue jeans, and find the price is \$10, they insist on paying \$11. They take less and give more as a matter of religious principle. Where could you find better neighbors than these?

People can always become angry. It happens all the time. Arguments, law-suits, legislation and much travail may ensue. Crime and war may both be manifestations of a failure to understand while nurturing anger and hate. You want to hurt the other fellow. You want to get even.

What the Doukhobors have demonstrated is that few people, including those in government, want to hurt them as much as they are willing to injure themselves. To a large degree, they live in peace. People leave them alone. Most people disagree with Doukhobor ideas and practices, but few wish to hurt them.

Robert LeFevre was the founder of Rampart College in the 1950's and has authored half-a-dozen books. LeFevre writes a weekly newspaper column for the Freedom Newspapers, Inc.

New Terms For The Same Old Rhetoric

By Butler D. Shaffer

Americans have become suckers for the "new." Toothpastes, detergents and razor blades are promoted as "new and improved," often superseding a version that weeks earlier was hailed as a near-perfect specimen. Auto manufacturers created the image of the "model year," inducing satisfied car owners to feel depressed to know that another year had rolled around, and their car was no longer satisfactory.

We see the same preoccupation in politics: in New Deals, New Frontiers, New Beginnings, and New Societies, politicians parade across the social consciousness hustling an image of a "new broom" sweeping away "old" politics and introducing the "new" and the "bold." Members of the media — intertwined with politicians and the bureaucracy in a symbiotic relationship — cooperate in this nonsense by presenting political babbling at face value, with nary a speck of critical analysis. More sophisticated people see this "newness" as one more variation, one more repackaging of the same old product.

One sees the pattern in other areas. Facing declining competency in learning — leading to decline in enrollments — public schools trot out "new" programs to teach students (whose attendance they can compel) basic reading, math, writing, and comprehension. When one looks beneath the slickness of the "new" programs, one sees the same old lock-step, conditioning, coercive public school methodology grinding out another form of the same old garbage.

With interventionist planning and management of the economy by the State thoroughly discredited, those who have dedicated their lives to people-pushing had to come up with an alternative to socialism, Keynesianism, and welfarism. The programs are now forthcoming.

We hear of a "new economics" — not an economics of producer and consumer autonomy, but a revised version

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of the State-run economics of force. The rhetoric changes, the programs have a different shape, but beneath the hype and glitter is the same basic assumption: the lives and behavior of people must be subjected to the rule of State authorities.

I recently read a set of proposals by a proponent of the "new" economics. It contained a laundry-list — fashioned solely of the subjective preferences of the economist — of "rights" to which children were entitled. Included were day-care centers, proper diets, proper learning environments — all to be funded and imposed by a political State operating from "new" premises.

Feminists and some ethnic groups play variations on this theme. Many intellectuals, members of the media, and other uncritically-minded people seem to accept political programs as synonymous with "liberation." It is assumed — without much question — that government-funded abortions, day-care centers, and training programs, as well as affirmative action and the Equal Rights Amendment, represent the "new" freedom of women and racial minorities from the stagnating influences of the "old" order.

Not only does this presume that all women and racial minorities think alike — an attitude that is the very essence of racism — it assumes that liberation can be a product of political management. If one looks beneath the fluff of so-called "feminist issues" and "black issues," one sees not a demand for getting the State off the backs of people held back by legislation, but a repackaging of socialism, welfarism, and other forms of Statism. The cry for government funded abortions comes not from women, but from socialist women.

What are sold as "new" religions often turn out to be the old hierarchically-structured, dogmatic religions trying to present a new image to a gullible public. Many who lay out blueprints for a "new" society — that will care for people and the rest of the earth — are only bringing the old order up to date, retaining old assumptions about the necessity for society to be managed by political authorities. Institutions — or those who identify with institutions — will never promulgate a tract that questions the existence of institutions.

One should pay careful attention to those who claim to offer "new" solutions to old problems. More often than not, these are clever persons who, sensing changed attitudes, seek to take advantage of changes and lead the way back to the same old attitudes. When one sees institutions offering programs for change, one should be on guard: it is likely that they only see the direction the pioneers are heading, and are trying to run ahead to set up trading posts.

Columnist Shaffer teaches law at Southwestern University, Los Angeles.

A Strange View of Competition

By Charles D. Van Eaton

In Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca, what you see is what you get. He's a genuine article who doesn't mind letting the world know what he thinks. Moreover, he believes what he says. Unfortunately, in matters dealing with com-

petition in the American automobile industry, what he believes and what is true are not always the same.

Iacocca says he's foursquare in favor of competition. Unfortunately, his version of "competition" and the ordinary has increasingly become the economic profession's view of competition (which has increasingly become the economic profession's view of competition) are not the same thing. The ordinary person sees competition as a process through which consumers benefit. In Iacocca's version of competition, sellers benefit: no seller — especially Chrysler — is supposed to lose.

Iacocca's view of competition is seller protecting rather than consumer-serving. The Chrysler chairman's outspoken attack against the GM—Toyota joint venture to build a small car in Fremont, and his call for a government-industry-labor compact to create a "level playing field" in the war against Japanese auto competition, are both seller-protecting requests.

There's nothing sinister in Iacocca's concept of competition. Neither is there anything new or novel. It's the same old song sung by businessmen throughout the country: defend the free enterprise and open competition as an abstraction but avoid it as a practice.

Two years ago, Iacocca put forth an idea: the federal government should give every person who purchased a new American car a \$1,500 tax break. At the time I commented on his choice of the \$1,500 figure, which is essentially the amount by which Japanese car makers bested U.S. manufacturers in cost efficiency. Clearly, I thought, Iacocca is asking the government to use its taxing power to erase the cost disadvantage for American firms.

Now Iacocca has a "better idea."

The Japanese advantage, he now believes, is based on two things: export tax rebates and an "undervalued" yen. The Japanese government refunds the turnover tax (essentially a sales tax) on all new cars exported and, because of the "undervalued" yen, it takes fewer dollars to buy the yen that buys the Japanese car. Iacocca is demanding that the U.S. government correct these "inequities."

The Japanese government does refund the turn-over tax on export goods (all exports, not just automobiles). Virtually every capitalist economy in the world that employs a turn-over tax refunds the tax on exports. The reason is simple: taxes are collected from citizens, not foreigners. If Iacocca objects to the tax rebate by the Japanese government, he's saying that he wants American buyers to pay the Japanese government for public services not received.

With regard to the value of the yen *vis-a-vis* the dollar: is the yen really under-valued or is the dollar overvalued? Iacocca and others speak only in terms of the under-valued yen. But, given the system of floating exchange rates that governs world finance, it is meaningless to say that one currency is undervalued or another is over-valued. The value of one currency relative to another is determined by the forces of supply and demand for that currency. Therefore, its value is determined by the market — its value is its value, no more and no less.

The dollar is the monetary instrument that finances world trade. Japan sells its imports with dollars, not yen. Japan pays for its exports with dollars, not yen. The same is true for other major trading nations. Moreover, it is total finance, not just trade, that forms the arena in which dollars are demanded.

Thus the movement of capital from Japan to the United States (as is occurring more and more) increases the demand for dollars. Indeed, a growing world economy increases the demand for dollars — whether the origin of the growth is in Japan, America, or Europe.

The strength of the dollar relative to the yen does not determine the price at which Japanese cars sell when they enter the United States. The selling price of Japanese cars is determined by the selling price of U.S. cars. The Japanese do not use the strength of the dollar to undersell U.S. manufacturers — they use the inefficiency of U.S. manufacturers.

Van Eaton teaches economics at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Lysander Spooner's Views on Taxation

"It was a principle of the Common Law, as it is of the law of nature and of common sense, that no man can be taxed without his personal consent. The Common Law knew nothing of that system, which now prevails in England, of **assuming** a man's own consent to be taxed because some pretended representative, whom he never authorized to act for him, has taken it upon himself to consent that he may be taxed. That is one of the many frauds on the Common Law, and the English constitution, which have been introduced since Magna Carta. Having finally established itself in England, it has been stupidly and servilely copied and submitted to in the United States.

If the trial by jury were reestablished, the Common Law principle of taxation would be reestablished with it; for it is not to be supposed that juries would enforce a tax upon an individual which he had never agreed to pay. Taxation without consent is as plainly robbery, when enforced against one man, as when enforced against millions; and it is not to be imagined that juries could be blind to so self-evident a principle. Taking a man's money without his consent, is also as much robbery, when it is done by millions of men, acting in concert, and calling themselves a government, as when it is done by a single individual, acting on his own responsibility, and calling himself a highwayman. Neither the numbers engaged in the act, nor the different characters they assume as a cover for the act, alter the nature of the act itself.

If the government can take a man's money without his consent, there is no limit to the additional tyranny it may practice upon him; for, with his money, it can hire soldiers to stand over him, keep him in subjection, plunder him at discretion, and kill him if he resists. And governments always will do this, as they everywhere and always have done it, except where the Common Law principle has been established. It is therefore a first principle,

a very **sine qua non** of political freedom, that a man can be taxed only by his personal consent. And the establishment of this principle, **with trial by jury**, insures freedom of course; because: 1. No man would pay his money unless he had first contracted for such a government as he was willing to support; and 2. Unless the government then kept itself within the terms of its contract, juries would not enforce the payment of the tax. Besides, the agreement to be taxed would probably be entered into but for a year at a time. If, in that year, the government proved itself either inefficient or tyrannical, to any serious degree, the contract would not be renewed."

From **AN ESSAY on the TRIAL BY JURY**
by Lysander Spooner, 1852

Paul Jacobs —Last Resistance-Fighter

By L. K. Samuels

Perhaps Paul Jacobs, the teenage draft resister still on the run, is not the last resistance-fighter. It only seems that way.

Out of several million men who have been warned to register for the draft, only 16 men have been indicted. Paul Jacobs is one of those. But instead of going to jail, he went underground and is still running from the FBI.

It seems insane. Imagine it. If you told a friend that you could be arrested, jailed and imprisoned for years just for simply refusing to sign a piece of paper at the Post Office, he would laugh. It would seem like something out of the "Twilight Zone." Sheer nonsense. Unbelievable science fiction. But it is not.

On this planet, men try to force other men to do their bidding. Paul Jacobs went underground because he refused to follow the dictates of another. His stand is simple. People ought not to be kidnapped in plain daylight for military service or any type of service.

The whole scenario around Paul Jacobs reminds me of the recent and very popular, low-budget film "The Last Starfighter." The main character in this science fiction film is unwillingly kidnapped and sent to another planet to fight a war he knows nothing about. The character objects and is immediately sent back to earth. The alien authorities refuse to induce an unwilling recruit. But back on earth, the hero decides that he wants to fight anyway and joins the starfighters core.

However, the reality of the U.S. government is different. Governments of earth will take anyone and all. And protests are ignored. And when someone like Paul Jacobs stands up and protests, he is the one accused of bad faith, as if he wanted to fight in the first place and refused.

It should be remembered that volunteering is a strong force. People need to think that they are volunteering their services. And when they do, they feel they are giving themselves to some cause. They are stronger and the organization is stronger. The 1984 Olympic committee had some 50,000 volunteers. The news media in other parts of the world could not believe 50,000 volunteers figure. They could not believe that people would go out and work unpaid; that people would feel proud to volunteer their time and energy for a worthy cause.

The land & How We Use It — The Chicken Story

By Lorne Strider
from the Laytonville Ledger

It all began one fine morning in Long Valley in April of 1984. A friend dropped by and left me with a laying hen in a cage. What a nice gift! I relished the thought of fresh eggs for breakfast. How grand! Well, first to build a nice little house for her.

Dust a-flying, I hammered and sawed as the coop took shape. It was not your ordinary hen coop, but a fine royal miniature, victorian-finished, with shiny yellow paint and white trim. The straw-filled egg basket was inside.

Just as I was putting the last touches on the roof's weather vane, I heard an ominous rumble in the sky. **Frop-frop-frop-frop!** It whirled in the sky. It was a patrol helicopter of the county Land Use Enforcement Commission! The noisy craft shuddered to a halt right in my flower garden, its wind blowing the landscaping every which way. Before the dust settled, out jumped an enforcement agent bedecked in the splendid uniform of the Enforcement Patrol.

He swaggered over, magnum and stick on belt, notebook in hand and boomed— "Looks like several crimes, misdemeanors, violations, infractions and non-conformances have occurred here!" I trembled in shock, "I.. I.." "Anything you say will be used against you," he declared as he wrote furiously in his notebook. "But it's just a little chicken house," I cried! I saw that further protest was to no avail and watched with dismay as the agent chronicled my crimes in his report.

"You are charged by the people of the state with the following infractions...1) no permit for farm animal, 2) no permit for farm dwelling, 3) no egg production permit, 4) no state or county agricultural clearance slip, 5) no permit from county farm bureau, 6) improper zoning, 7) non-conformance with the Great Plan, 8) health and safety violations, 9) no permit from Coastal Commission, 10) setbacks . . ." and on he droned.

The burly enforcement agent handed me my copy of the indictment and nailed a giant red proclamation to my little hen house. "You are in a heap of trouble friend... better go see the authorities and clear your name." As the noise of the department helicopter faded I sat contemplating my predicament. Being a law abiding type, I didn't know what else to do but go and apply for the necessary permits.

What a place the Bureau of Permits was. Vast halls and corridors. Seemingly hundreds of windows with busy clerks and long lines of people. I was not the only one in search of the proper permits. After milling through the crowd a while I found the farm animal section, subsection chickens, and fell in at the end of the line. Two and a half hours later, I reached the window to find that it was the chicken window alright, but only for permits for 11 to 26 chickens. The window for 1 to 10 chickens was further

down the hall.

After reaching the correct window, the one for 1 to 10 chickens, I again joined the end of the line. A half hour later as I reached the window, the clerk slammed down the gate, closed for the day.

Well, alright, back again first thing in the morning. This time I reached the window and filled out the proper forms in triplicate. This only took 45 minutes.

Next was the Hall of Building Supervision. This office demanded blue prints to scale, site plans engineering report, materials list, contractors ID number, nine copies of all. Plus copies of all permits issued by other agencies.

And so it went, from window to window, bureau to bureau, commissioner to commissioner. Egg board, agricultural board, non-conformance board, and the zoning commission.

The zoners were the most difficult. I had to get on a list for a hearing and the agenda was booked for six months. It seems I was in a zone that allowed 11 to 26 chickens. The variance would allow me to keep just one chicken. They claimed it would take even longer to get my property re-zoned for one chicken.

After posting bail at the Bureau of Land Use Enforcement (BLUE) I began the long process of permit approval at the office of the Great Plan. There in the quiet and reverent halls the dedicated technicians and priest were hard at their tasks. The Great Planners were designing a better world for us all. I hoped there would be room for my hen in this brave new world.

I was determined not to be discouraged. I was going to prevail! So on I went, to the architectural board, the bearded and bespectacled archaeological commissioners from the university, air and water board, the safety bureau. Then, at last, the Peoples' Commission on Good Taste.

The commissioners of Good Taste were relentless in their zeal to do their duty. Such dedicated civil servants I have never seen. They scrutinized by application forms, maps and drawings. They made numerous field trips for on-site inspections of my little hen house. After several sessions, I agreed to compromise. They would grant their approval if I would repaint the hen house brown with yellow trim. So I repainted, covering over the offensive yellow. The chicken didn't seem to notice.

July 1992, and the last permit arrived in the mail! Aha! I persevered to the last and won! In this mood of jubilation I rushed out back to show the hen the pile of completed permits. But, alas, as I approached the fading brown hen house the chicken was laying on its back, lifeless. Its wings were folded neatly across its breast in tranquil repose, smile on its face, possibly reflecting visions of that happy barn yard in the sky.

She was a good hen, one egg a day for eight years. Little did my chicken know she lived her whole life illegally and in violation. An outlaw to the last.

Lorne Strider is a Real Estate Broker, Appraiser and Property Rights Advocate who lives in Laytonville, California.

New York State Makes Seat Belts Mandatory

ALBANY, N.Y. — ignoring pleas that government control was already too strong, the New York legislature approved a bill recently that has made New York the first state to require adults to wear seat belts in the front seats of automobiles.

Final passage came in late June on a vote of 82-60 in the Democrat-controlled Assembly. A week earlier, the Republican-controlled Senate approved a similar measure, 37-16. Governor Mario Cuomo said he would sign the law.

Shortly after the Senate voted, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole telephoned Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Norman Levy, who sponsored the bill to congratulate the Legislature for approving the measure, said James Moriarty, an aide to Levy.

Supporters said the law could save 400 to 500 lives annually and prevent up to 14,000 serious injuries a year. They have said \$530 million would be saved annually in lower medical costs and fewer work hours lost.

Opponents claimed the measure was another example of "Big Brother" government intruding on people's lives.

"It's a total invasion of privacy," said Sen. Hugh Farley, a Republican from Schenectady, as debate began. "Russia is another country that has a mandatory seat belt law."

Under terms of the measure, the driver and all front-seat passengers would be required to wear seat belts. Children under 10, sitting anywhere in the vehicle, would be required to wear a belt or be restrained in special child safety seats. The measure would apply to any motorist entering the state.

As of Jan. 1, violators would be subject to fines of up to \$50. When it comes to those fines, drivers would be liable for themselves and anyone less than 16 years old in the vehicle. Those age 16 and older would have to pay any fine themselves.

The measure would take effect Dec. 1, but for the first month people would be given only warnings by law-enforcement officials.

The New York legislation would apply only to vehicles required by the federal government to have seat belts. Exemptions are provided for the handicapped, school buses and emergency vehicles.

Other states considering similar legislation include Illinois, Michigan and Delaware.

Mandatory seat-belt laws are already in force in more than 30 countries including Great Britain, Australia, Sweden, Japan and Israel. Also, six of Canada's 10 provinces have mandatory seat belt laws.

Agriculture Program Ads Win Golden Fleece Award

WASHINGTON — Sen. William Proxmire gave his Golden Fleece award to a federal agriculture program that spent \$11.9 million on advertisements that congressional investigators said produced negligible results.

Proxmire gave his monthly award to the Federal Crop

Insurance Corp.

"The purpose of this lavish expenditure of millions of taxpayer dollars was to increase awareness of the federal crop insurance program and persuade farmers that it is a good investment," Proxmire said.

"But farmers ended up knowing no more about his program after the ad campaign than they did before."

The Wisconsin Democrat said a General Accounting Office study of the corporation's advertising program said it "had a negligible effect on producer awareness of the program."

J. W. Ellis, director of congressional and public affairs for the agency, said the agency is phasing out its advertising program, conducting it in cooperation with private companies and concentrating on presentations such as slide shows.

"We realize that what was once a good idea didn't turn out to be such a good idea," Ellis said.

13th Century Technology

William Tell would have been proud of 2 East Germans who used a bow and arrow to escape over the Berlin Wall. They attached one end of the rope to their car, and fired the arrow over the wall to an accomplice in West Berlin. Nothing like good, old, 13th century technology.

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POT SHOTS

CBS Out To Get That Wascally Wabbit

Bugs Bunny has been deemed to be too violent for television. It was reported in TV Guide magazine that CBS will begin censoring Warner Brothers cartoons seen on Saturday mornings. The show to be censored is called the "Bugs Bunny-Roadrunner Show".

Chuck Jones, creator of 250 of the Warner Brothers's cartoons (nearly 1,000 have been produced), strongly disagrees with the network's view.

"First, I don't like to see the films cut at all," he said. "And it has always startled me that people will take something as innocent as the Road Runner or Bugs Bunny or Wile E. Coyote and they'll try to nail down their children's bad behavior on these poor things when on the same afternoon that they've seen a Road Runner cartoon that has been bowdlerized by the censors, the children will go to the movies and see 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'..." Jones said some of the cuts are "arbitrary and stupid."

Hodgepodge

The Bureau of Census estimates the underground economy at \$222 billion, or about \$1,000 for every U.S. citizen, including children. It ranges from Organized Crime to kids mowing lawns at less than minimum wage.

In tests given to 600 average sixth-graders in 8 countries, U.S. students came out last in math, 6th in science, and 4th in geography. Many U.S. 6th graders were unable to locate North America.

Latest crime wave in Brazil is underwater muggers, who have even been known to take the victim's swim suit, as well as valuables.

In Kentucky it is illegal to marry your former wife's grandmother.

In Enugu, Nigeria, TV broadcaster Chuma Edozie became disgusted with the "false information" he had to mouth over the state-operated station. He quit on the air midway through the broadcast.

Canadian artist Toni Onley has announced that he will burn 1058 of his prints, paintings and water-colors, valued at up to \$1,500 each, to protest tax laws which regard artists as manufacturers. The law taxes unsold works of art as inventory.

Army Corps of Engineers submitted to Congress a report on flood control in Houston, Texas last year, which Congress had authorized in 1948.

Todd Harmeyer, 10 years of age, of Fort Wayne, Indiana was surprised to find marijuana seeds in his frosted mini-wheats.

"Mini Libertas Update"—An eclectic libertarian calendar:

Ongoing Events:

Every Tuesday... L.A. libertarian toastmasters 7-9pm. LOC: Season's restaurant at 6th & Vermont in downtown L.A. INFO: Dick Eagleson 213-760-8945

Every Wednesday... Orange County libertarian toastmasters. LOC: La Grance Cafe, 7-9pm 2525 N. Grand Ave, Santa Ana. Guests welcome. INFO: Brad 213-530-4396

Every Thursday... LASFS, the L.A. Science Fantasy Society, Inc. (this world's oldest science fiction club) meets at 8pm, 11513 Burbank Blvd., No. Hollywood, CA 91601. INFO: 213-760-9234 or 213-638-0297

Every Third Thursday... Liberty Forum—The Libertarian Supper Club of Orange County. LOC: 9550 Warner Ave. St. 250 Fountain Valley, CA 92708 LOC: The Revere House restaurant, 900 W. 1st St. Tustin, CA. COST: \$16 w/ dinner, \$7 for program only.

Every Friday... HOUR 25-Science fiction/Science fact radio programming, 90.7 FM - KPFF 10pm-12 mid-night (news, great calendar, guests, open phones)

Every Final Friday of the month... The Alumni Group of the Henry George School presents F, Friday at the Press Club, Dinner, 7:15pm, Program 8:30pm LOC: The Los Angeles Press Club 800 North Vermont Ave. LA, CA. COST: Dinner and program \$12.50, program only —\$4.00 INFO: 213-352-4141

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday (except holidays) Political Economy Club of Los Angeles meets. Dinner at 6pm. COST: \$8.95 LOC: Miyama Japanese Restaurant, 14522 Vanowen St. Van Nuys. Meeting— 7:30pm. COST free. LOC: Sears Savings, 6750 Van Nuys Blvd. INFO: 213-791-1580, POB 478 No. Hollywood, CA 91603

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