

December, 1972

DEDUCING TO MORALITY

If there is a principle relating to correct human behavior, that principle must apply universally, have a predictable outcome, and be a part of the objective order. For years I have contended that such a principle exists. Principles, when discovered, show us the right and the wrong way to do something. But they do not show us the "good" or the "bad." Whether a particular type of behavior is acceptable or not, depends on value judgments which are a part of the subjective order, and hence contain variables relating to individual preferences. All principles derive from nature and are discovered and not contrived. Values are contrived.

Principles can readily be accepted or rejected. It is a fact (principle) that a man who jumps from a high place will fall. But there is nothing in the principle to prevent him from jumping. If he is aware of the principle of gravity, he knows that if he jumps from a high place he will descend rapidly, possibly fatally, to a lower point. Whether or not the principle is accepted and acted upon depends upon the value judgments of the actor. But if he jumps, nature takes over irrespective of his wishes, likes, or dislikes. Hence, it is proper to say that if a man does not wish to fall, he ought not to jump from very high places.

The principles of correct human behavior would, of necessity, be a part of the same category. The discovery of a principle does not inhibit our values. It simply serves to explain what nature will do in a given set of circumstances.

After many years of probing in this area, I reached the conclusion that a principle explaining correct human behavior could be stated in the negative as follows: "Whenever the boundaries of an individual's person or property are violated against his will, that person is injured." I believe this is a true statement, but it may not be a principle. It does not totally remove the subjective nature of a portion of the statement, for it is put in such a way that recognition is given to the fact that the violation of the boundary must occur "against the will" of the victim. How does one know in advance what the will of a particular individual may be in a given case? If we cannot know in advance, then predictability is impossible.

There has been a tendency in current debates with a number of liber-

tarians for them to argue that because there is an element of subjectivity in the phrase "against the will of," no principle in fact exists. Perhaps the principle exists, but the statement used lacks predictability and is faulty. Clearly, the individual who does not wish the boundaries of his person or property to be violated in a given way, or by a given individual, will experience injury if the violation occurs. However, one could logically assume that the violation of a boundary of a person who wished his boundaries violated would not result in his injury since his will had not been thwarted. Obviously, it is desirable not to go around violating boundaries. But that statement is a value judgment. Wherein does nature say that all boundary violations will predictably result in injury?

I'd like to turn the argument around. As has been discerned, the previous phrasing was inductive. I have argued from the particular (a single violation of a boundary) to the general fact of injury. Perhaps a rephrasing, in deductive language, will clear up the point. Let me state it this way: "All injury resulting from interpersonal behavior has been caused by the violation of the boundary of an individual's person or property."

Note that when deductive language is used, no mention need be made of the individual's will in the matter. We reason from the fact that all injuries caused by human misconduct stem from a common source: the violation of a boundary. There may have been some boundary violations which did not cause injury. They become immaterial. We have only to note that WITHOUT EXCEPTION every injury experienced by any individual and caused by human behavior has resulted from a boundary violation. It follows, therefore, that IF a person does not wish to impose injuries on others, he OUGHT NOT violate the boundaries, either of person or property, of another.

That he might get away with it from time to time is immaterial. It is possible for a person to leap from a great height and in spite of that to escape injury. The fact is that nature shows us that the man so leaping experiences results that nature imposes. And the individual who violates the property or personal boundaries of others has set into motion the cause from which all human injury, caused by human conduct, takes place.

-- Robert LeFevre

MORE RAMPART COURSES TO BE OFFERED IN 1973

3.

The coming year is already developing a strong demand for seminars and other programs. Eighteen one-week sessions will be conducted in South Carolina for the Deering Milliken firm. A two-week Comprehensive Course will again be held in California, and negotiations are in progress for other two and five-day seminars. Anyone who is interested (individuals, groups, companies) in attending a seminar or reserving a date for their own group is invited to write for information. Robert LeFevre will be available for a few sessions where his schedule permits, and other instructors will also be available.

NEW OFFICERS

At the December meeting of the Rampart College board of trustees, the following officers were named for 1973.

Seymour Leon, president
Walter R. Ryan, Jr., vice president
Mary Lou Wolter, secretary-treasurer

Mr. Leon has been associated with Rampart College since 1967. He served as an instructor for two years and has been executive director and trustee since 1969.

Mr. Ryan is an executive with IBM Corporation and was appointed to the Rampart board of trustees in 1971. Active in libertarian projects for the past ten years, he completed a Comprehensive Course in 1965.

Ms. Mary Lou Wolter is co-owner of a highly successful Amway Corporation distributing company. She joined the Rampart board of trustees in 1972 and is a 1969 graduate of the Comprehensive Course.

Rampart's founder Robert LeFevre will continue to teach the courses in the "Fundamentals of Human Liberty" offered by the college. His decision to resign as president was prompted by his heavy teaching schedule and his personal desire to concentrate more heavily on writing.

WE CAN LEARN TO BE FREE

"Breaking all hardback book records since Gone With the Wind ... the pop publishing miracle of the year ... even the decade's?" JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL was the Time cover story November 13. The five-page story quotes Jonathan: "We can lift ourselves out of ignorance. We can be free. We can learn to fly!" Copies available at Rampart College book service, \$4.95 (plus \$.25 postage/handling, California residents add 5% sales tax).

BROWNE STUDY

Harry Browne's new book, How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World, is scheduled for publication by Macmillan this winter. His current book, HOW YOU CAN PROFIT FROM THE COMING DEVALUATION, has been a consistent national best seller (Rampart sells it for \$1.25 - plus 5% sales tax for Californians - and \$.25 postage/handling charge).

PROGRESS REPORT - INDEPENDENT POSTAL SYSTEM

4.

As of November, the Independent Postal System of America now has 130 offices, serving 454 cities in 32 states - after operating just four years. IPSA theme is: "A private company can get mail to doorsteps faster and cheaper than the federal government - and turn a profit besides." Project was originally launched in Oklahoma City by Thomas Murray. Government forbids private delivery of first-class mail.

AWARD NO MORAL SANCTION

From Canada, Paul Miniato writes: "How much support does statism have? Any person, group, or organization that must do business with a government in an immoral or coercive transaction, such as payment of taxes or compliance with an immoral regulation, might consider enclosing some kind of brief but logical protest in every correspondence related to that transaction. Such an enclosure might, for instance, be a signed form letter outlining the proper sphere of government (if any), dealing perhaps with the specific coercive act involved, outlining its alternative, and recommending further sources of information. The letter might also mention why the specific regulation is being complied with, i.e., fear of more direct physical coercion, and thus award no moral sanction to the aggressor.

"If such an activity were carried out, on a personal, group, and organizational level, consistently and lastingly, but by a myriad of unrelated efforts, it could seriously undermine the statist's sense of self-righteousness. And should the extent of the protesting grow large enough, the knowledge of this fact could act as a bellows on the fires of libertarianism."

A LIBERTARIAN ALTERNATIVE

Responding on TV to a KNXT (Los Angeles) editorial, a spokesman for Libertarian Alternative called for economic self-determination.

"Those who believe in medicare, social security, welfare, or any other social action program, should be allowed to participate...those who disapprove should not be forced to participate or finance those programs. The cost would be divided among those who say they want them. We'll quickly discover how much real public 'demand' there is for those programs." Libertarian Alternative (Box 38182, Hollywood, CA 90038), meets at 8 p.m., the second and fourth Monday at Eater's Digest Restaurant, Beverly Hills.

PERSON-TO-PERSON DIRECTORY

Larry Lynn, 2314 Marketze, Camp Hill, PA 17011, would like to communicate with libertarians in the Harrisburg-Williamsport-State College area of Pennsylvania.

John L. Coffin, Star Route, Ava, Missouri 65608, would like to hear from anyone interested in the climate of humanism.

David J. Theroux to San Francisco Bay-Area residents: "Today, the essential task of those who value Liberty is the propagation of the Libertarian Idea! The Bay-Area Libertarian League is mobilizing such an idea-activist program. Contact B.A.L.L., Box 7031, Berkeley 947071.

TAX PROTESTERS CHALLENGE I.R.S.

5.

Eleven Southern Californians who dared to challenge an IRS seizure of a warehouse for "failure to pay taxes" went on trial December 5 in San Diego. Conviction can mean a jail sentence up to 15 years. Several are members of Taxpayers Anonymous, an organization which believes the federal income tax is unconstitutional. The Libertarian Alternative (Box 38182, Hollywood, CA 90038) is raising funds for the San Diego Eleven, who already have spent thousands for bail and attorney fees. The "eleven" include a plumbing contractor, veterinarian, company owner, metal tester, college student, vice president of a consulting firm, chiropractor, building contractor, etc.

"DON'T TAKE THE BAIT"

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons is urging doctors not to collaborate with the government via PSRO (Professional Standards Review Organizations) and HMO (Health Maintenance Organizations). "The malignancy of bureaucratic subsidy and control of medical practice is metastasizing," warns the AAPS November newsletter. For a summary of two "particularly vicious and destructive pieces of anti-private medicine legislation" involved in Public Law 92-603 signed by President Nixon October 30, write AAPS, 2111 Enco Drive, Suite N-515, Oak Brook, IL 60521. Example: "...grants agents of government the authority for the first time in this land of the free to rifle the private patient files of doctors (serving Medicare and Medicaid patients) and to snoop through their offices to gather evidence which may be used against them...."

VIEWING CHARITY WITH CLARITY

"Whereas a crust of bread may save a man from starving for a short while, the creation and use of tools are the only effective means by which people can be pulled completely out of the mire of poverty and placed on the solid base of sustained plenty." Originally published in 1956, Dr. F. A. Harper's essay, "The Greatest Economic Charity," is currently printed as a public service by the Love Box Company of Wichita. Write for complimentary single copy (10 copies \$2.00, 50 copies \$8.00, etc.), Institute for Humane Studies, 1134 Crane St., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

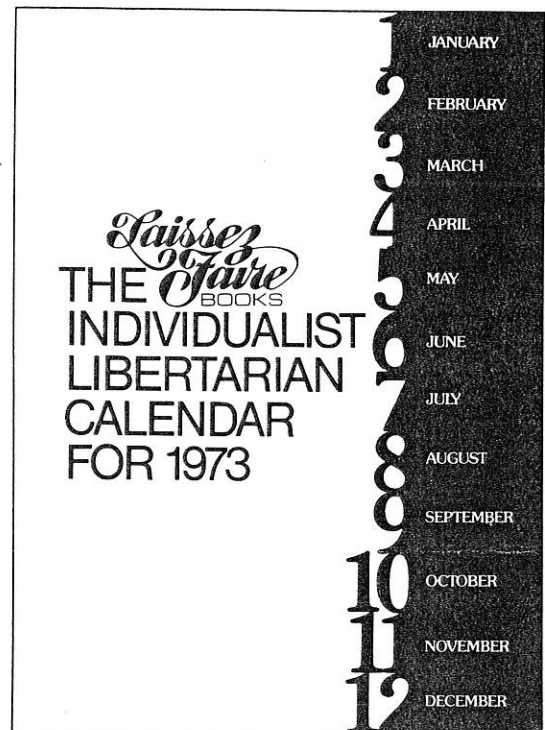
"THE WINNER"

The man who came out ahead in the '72 presidential race has been identified by columnist Lowell Ponte (Anaheim Bulletin November 13) as the founder of the League of Non-Voters. "Voters trudged to the polls with little love in their hearts to award President Nixon support a mile wide but only inches deep. Overall, the unknown winner turns out to be Sy Leon, head of obscure League of Non-Voters in Santa Ana, CA; as seems always to be the case, in 1972 ... more registered voters cast no ballot at all than voted for the winner." Comments Leon: On November 7, 44% of the eligible voters issued a resounding proclamation. It was, 'We don't want Nixon or McGovern.' Despite the vaunted victory at the polls proclaimed by national media, the lowest percentage turnout since 1948 indicates the American voter is beginning to reject the illusion of choice between 'the lesser of two evils.'"

An illustrated calendar....more than 270 events directly relevant to individualist libertarians....is now being made available to readers of the Rampart College newsletter. Calendar creator is Sharon Presley of New York City (Rampart grad '67).

Illustrations one for every month include photographs of Ludwig von Mises, Robert LeFevre, Murray Rothbard, Lysander Spooner, and Benjamin Tucker; miniature posters of Thoreau, the Libertarian Party, the non-voters, the "Void Where Prohibited By Law" Bill of Rights, and the Bavarian Illuminati. Printed in black and white on coated book-weight paper, 11" x 17".

\$2.25 each - \$4.00 for two (includes fourth-class postage; add 25¢ per calendar for first-class mail. California residents add 5% sales tax.)



ORDER NOW - AND MAKE IT A LIBERTARIAN NEW YEAR!

ORDER FORM - Rampart College - 104 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Send me _____ 1973 Laissez Faire Libertarian Calendars.
 My payment of \$_____ is enclosed. (No C.O.D.'s, please.)

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SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE
 PAID AT SANTA ANA,
 CALIFORNIA

December, 1972

MOVING? Let us know, and please send your old address label from this newsletter.

This newsletter is published monthly by Rampart College Santa Ana, California, and is available at no charge upon request.