



February, 1973

### RECAPTURING A VISION

Many people can recall a time when they had a vision, or an expectation, that life would be wonderful and exciting for them. And they recognize that gradually the vision grew dimmer; that as years passed they accepted the idea that they were unable to control much of what happened to them, adjusting to the circumstances in which they found themselves. Perhaps this "lost vision" is a process of growing up and coming to believe that "you can't have everything." We live in a world which is based upon the acceptance of authority, where individuals are put under pressure to conform; to belong. We are told that others - our teachers, our employers, our President, etc. - can decide things for us better than we can decide them for ourselves. And little by little we succumb, hardly noticing the fading of that vision, that dream of making an important and satisfying life come into being.

Here at Rampart we've been studying what happens to people when that vision is recalled. Understanding that freedom is a condition of being wherein no one is coerced, we have found that the enjoyment of freedom is very much a state of mind, which can be expressed in the concept of self-responsibility or self-control. What we mean by that concept is that each individual has the power to choose among alternatives. To the extent that he exercises that power without placing restrictions on his awareness of the choices available to him, he experiences "psychological freedom."

When we begin to understand that we do make our own decisions, and that the limits we place on our ability to grow are placed there by us, then we can learn to extend those limits and broaden our knowledge and enjoyment of life. As we gain confidence in our ability to run our own lives, we become less tense, less confused about social conditions which seem to be beyond our control, and more involved in creating an environment of personal freedom for ourselves. And we begin to understand how that personal freedom can be extended into all interhuman relationships through voluntary association and exchange.

The libertarian philosophy, as we at Rampart see it, is more than a social, political, and economic concept. It is a view of the whole human being; a philosophy of thinking and acting man. Until men are

free of their fear of themselves, they cannot be free of their fear of one another - which is what leads them to seek control of others by political means.

Authoritarian institutions are created by people with authoritarian attitudes. If a person is basically fearful, he will want to implement force through social institutions to create an environment in harmony with his views. He will tend to be apprehensive of relying on voluntary means for achieving personal or social goals. But if a person views himself as capable and worthwhile, he will tend to project that view into the kinds of institutions he'll want to create. Governments are not the cause of a lack of freedom, they are the result of it. If we want social institutions to evolve into more responsive organizations, an emphasis on individuality and self-acceptance is vital.

The notion that people do not, or can not, manage their own lives is a mistaken one. Human nature is based upon the essential characteristics of choice and self-responsibility. To understand this can be a joyful and liberating experience for an individual. To incorporate it into our social institutions so that they serve us, rather than the other way around, is a vision worth keeping alive.

-- Riqui Leon

#### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Libertarians looking at history are discovering instance after instance where it is a private individual, not a government agency or functionary, who has advanced human well-being by practical innovations. Dave Dial points out that over 60 years before the U.S. Hydrographic Office purchased the copyright for Bowditch's American Practical Navigator, this invaluable aid to navigation was privately developed and maintained. In 1800 Nathaniel Bowditch started to revise Moore's Navigator, but found so many errors and inconveniences in its use during five years of sea voyages that he wrote his own book, while at sea, putting down "nothing that I can't teach the crew." On that voyage he taught every man in the crew, including the cook, to take and calculate lunar observations and the position of the ship.

#### FROM AN EARLIER CENTURY

Inscription found on a gravestone at Nantucket, Massachusetts:

"Here lies the body of Dr. Harwood  
A man who never voted;  
Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

## TWO LETTERS - WRITTEN IN THE U.S.A.

"My son was arrested November 7, charged only with 'not keeping his draft board advised of an address where he could be reached at any time.' You probably know that he does not smoke, drink, or use drugs, and is a Cal Tech grad.... He is very strongly committed to libertarian and objectivist ideals.... Despite pressure, my wife and I refused to commit our son to the county hospital for psychiatric evaluation and treatment. The judge then turned the case over to one with more authority (a U.S. district court judge), who ordered our son to be committed to the state hospital for no more than 60 days of psychiatric examination and evaluation, then to be returned to the court for another hearing...." January 1, 1973

"Through the efforts of good friends, \_\_\_\_\_ was retained to represent me and he succeeded last week in having me released and all the charges my father wrote you about were dropped.... I'm now waiting to recover from the effects of the drugs administered to me against my will while I was held against my will in a mental hospital. After that I sorely hope to be able to continue on and try to pick up the tattered pieces of my life. This has been a most unpleasant 'trip.'" January 16, 1973

## OUTLOOK FROM BUSINESS SECTOR

"Docility and 'adjustment' predominate - we see it clearly in each of our meetings and seminars. For example, in discussions about OSHA little concern about the extraordinary powers over private enterprise is expressed; emphasis is almost exclusively on how to live with it.... The virus of dependency and accommodation is so advanced that any cure must be based on reflective thought about the values underlying a freedom-of-choice society; nothing less can possibly be an antidote for the erosion of the Spirit of Liberty."

-- C. W. Anderson, "Hi-Lites for Management," December, 1972

## I.R.S. "GETS" LITTLE GUY

Guide manuals on whose returns to audit, and how to proceed, reveal how the I.R.S. picks on the easiest marks - little taxpayers who can't afford to fight back, according to Seattle taxpayers Philip and Susan Long, who have copies of the secret manuals. Long says that for years the I.R.S. has persuaded Congress to renew and enlarge its budget by promising to collect huge sums from people who fail to pay their taxes. "Collecting deficiencies from big corporations or rich individuals is a hard, long, drawn-out process, so the I.R.S. devotes relatively little of its time to it. It's much easier to collect those under-\$200 deficiency claims from little people and to harass small businessmen into paying somewhat bigger unjustified deficiency claims without fighting." A federal court judge recently ordered tax auditors to turn over to the Longs the I.R.S.' own statistical study of tax audits and its manuals (UPI story January 24, 1973).

#### SQUAW SQUAD PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

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An all-woman volunteer team provides the only day-time ambulance service available in a 35-square-mile area near Columbus, O. In Parade (January 14) Arthur Freese reports the speed, sureness, and expertise of 22 family women, ages 20's to 50's, who provide rescue and first aid. The \$1-a-year chief of Minerva Park's volunteer fire department sparked the idea (first with his wife), and maintains a training program. Operating since '69, the Squaw Squad averages 150 calls a year.

#### KANSAS LIBERTARIAN CONFERENCE MARCH 3

A conference will be held March 3 (9:30--4:30 p.m.), Wichita State U. Sponsors: Institute for Libertarian Research and Study, S.I.L., and Kansas Libertarian Party. Reservation needed (no admission fee): write Gary Leffel, 1308 N. Terrace, Wichita 67208.

#### PERSON TO PERSON DIRECTORY

Lloyd Stark, Jr., 1 Grandview, Louisiana, MO 63353 (314: 754-4298) is interested in contacting libertarians near St. Louis, for mind-expanding positive discussions and/or trade of mutual benefit; occupation: mail order and direct mail selling, minding own business.

Michael Washburn, c/o Western World Press, P.O. Box 2714, Culver City, CA 90230, an East Coast libertarian just moved to the L.A. area, seeks to meet area libertarians.

D. Miller, 244 Shady Lane, #34, El Cajon, CA 92021 (714: 447-3148) will trade first-edition record set of "Basic Principles of Objectivism" (autographed by Nathaniel Branden); wants signed copy of Atlas Shrugged or ?.

Thomas Walther, P.O. Box 99476, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415: 776-8170), wants to hear from libertarians in S.F. Bay Area and north who own or want to buy land parcels in that area.

Morris Tannehill, 9412-C Tennyson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63114 (314: 426-2313) would like to get acquainted with people in the St. Louis area since moving there after his and Linda's separation recently.

Steven Thomas, 034935 D-64, Box 667, Bushnell, Florida 33513, wants to write to individual(s) in the St. Petersburg or Orlando areas.



SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE  
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