
The Voluntaryist

Whole Number 87

"If one takes care of the means, the end will take care of itself."

August 1997

Private Charities

By Carl Watner

Over the years, good fortune has showered itself upon my family and me: caring parents, four devoted children, a loving wife, and sufficient food, clothing, and shelter to keep body and soul together. Health, wealth, and wisdom, even though they have come in little doses, have been mine. Not everyone is so fortunate. One way of showing gratitude is to help others. This can be done on a one-to-one basis, or by contributing time or money to a formally-organized charity. The purpose of this short article is to describe a few of the worthy charities that have come to my family's attention.

As voluntaryists, my wife and I have especially wanted to assist those charitable groups which receive no public funding. Such organizations appeal to our free market orientation. When no public money is available, the only way a private charity can attract funding is by satisfying donors and successfully serving the needy. As donors or potential donors see this success, they are more and more inclined to support the charity in question. Government funding of charitable causes skews these incentives. As Kimberly Davis of the Philanthropy Roundtable explains,

Government support changes charities' incentives, giving them reasons to keep caseloads up instead of getting them down by turning people's lives around. It distorts their missions. It turns lean, cost-effective organizations into bloated bureaucracies and dilutes their spiritual or religious message.

My search for private charities which receive no tax money is guided by Robert Ringer's admonition that he is "not against charity," but is "against the use of force." In other words, I am not so much opposed to how tax money is spent (although that is a concern, too), as I am opposed to how that money is raised and where it comes from. To voluntaryists, the means are as important as the ends, because as our mast head puts it: "If you take care of the means, the end will take care of itself." The end (the use of tax money—whether it be wisely or improperly spent) does not justify the means (the threat of personal imprisonment and/or confiscation of property if one does not "voluntarily" pay one's taxes). Although private philanthropy is a very American tradition (see my article "The Most Generous Nation on Earth: Voluntaryism and American Philanthropy," Whole No. 61, THE VOLUNTARYIST), there appear to be relatively few, well-known, charitable organizations

which receive no government funding, and fewer which reject tax funds on principle.

When speaking of charities, as well as of businesses and governments, the old adage, 'caveat emptor', must be remembered. I believe the information presented here to be accurate, but I always remain skeptical, and advise readers to investigate for themselves. Certainly there must be many other private charities which receive no government funding which have not yet come to my attention. Readers are urged to send information about them to THE VOLUNTARYIST. The charities listed here are arranged alphabetically, and no endorsement is stated or implied.

I. The Catholic Worker, 36 East First Street, New York NY 10003

The Catholic Worker movement was founded by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933. Its goal is to help people live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ. It does so by advocating personal and social transformation based on nonviolence, works of mercy, manual labor, and voluntary poverty. It publishes a tabloid paper seven times a year, and its adherents operate many houses of hospitality and farms in the United States and Canada, as well as a few in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Donations to the Catholic Worker are not tax-deductible. The following statement frequently appears in their literature:

WE ARE NOT TAX EXEMPT

All gifts to the Catholic Worker go to a common fund which is used to meet the daily expenses of our work. Your gifts to our work are not tax-deductible, so we are unable to offer you tax receipts.

Our founders, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, taught us, by their words and deeds, that our lives should be lived in voluntary poverty, doing the works of justice and mercy at a personal sacrifice. As a community, we have never sought tax-exempt status, believing that we are bound by conscience, not by government regulations, rewards, or privileges.

II. Prison Fellowship Ministries, Box 17500, Washington DC 20041

This organization was founded by Chuck Colson in 1976 as a means of carrying "the hope and compassion of Christ" to prisoners, victims, and their families. Relying on about 45,000 volunteers and 300 paid staff, Prison Ministries conducts In-Prison Seminars, provides interested prisoners with pen pals, and

continued on page 5

The Voluntaryist

Editor: Carl Watner

Subscription Information

Published bi-monthly by The Voluntaryists, P.O. Box 1275, Gramling, SC 29348. Yearly subscriptions (six issues) are \$18 or .045 ounce or 1.400 grams of fine gold. For overseas postage, please add \$5 or 1/3 of the regular subscription price. Single back issues are \$4 each or 1/6 of the regular subscription price. Please check the number on your mailing label to see when you should renew.

Back issues of this publication are available on microfiche from John Zube, Box 52, Berrima, NSW 2577, Australia.

The Double Edge of Computers

In Chinese philosophy, two principles, one negative and dark (yin), and one positive and bright (yang), interact to influence the destinies of creatures and things. The computer is certainly not immune to these forces that we Americans sometimes refer to as a double-edged sword. The unique technology of the computer enables it be used not only to improve the quality of life and our standard of living, but as a very effective tool that can be used by government to oppress and terrorize us into submission.

On the one hand computers enable this author to write with unparalleled speed, accuracy and convenience. The computer enables me to connect to the Internet and read what someone in England or Russia may have written 10 minutes ago, instead of buying a magazine and reading the same article months after it was written. Because of the computer I am able to send electronic mail to someone who may be half-way around the world and it will be delivered to them in a matter of minutes, when it would normally take government postal services a number of days or even weeks to do the same thing. And of course, point-of-sale or point-of-shipment systems allow businesses to be more efficient by immediately knowing what they are selling for inventory or accounting purposes.

But on the other hand, the inherent aspect of the computer which allows for this inexpensive acquisition, processing, storage and retrieval of information is why government in the United States has a greater ability to control people than any other government has had in the history of the world. And government isn't the only culprit in using the computer to compile information on us. Private industry doesn't just use the power of the computer to make sure you don't run out of soap and Jell-O at your local market, but also to track your monetary status and your buying and spending patterns to know what advertising mailer to send you next.

It is disturbing that few of these invasions of privacy are explicitly consensual. The mere act of living

in our society makes one's every movement subject to being recorded and catalogued by someone somewhere for future reference. The computerization of America provides dramatic evidence of perhaps the greatest attitudinal shift that has occurred in any society in history. In just several generations, the concept of personal privacy has gone from being a valued ideal, to one where anyone who desires privacy today is almost immediately considered to be a suspicious person. A television documentary shown a couple of years ago demonstrated how much can be learned about any one of us in a matter of hours. A reporter wrote down the license plate number of a car picked at random driving on the freeway. Within twenty four hours the reporter had found the name of the woman driving the car, as well as the name of her husband and children. He had also found out where she lives, works, what bank she uses and how much money she makes at her job. He also learned what college she'd graduated from and how much is owed on her family's house, as well as much more. All of this information was obtained from readily available public computer databases—not secret government files.

Computers are certainly not alone in this duality of use, because literally every creation of the human mind can be used for purposes of enhancing life or destroying it. For example, picks and shovels can be used to dig a basement, but they are very labor intensive. By contrast, explosives are very labor efficient. In less time, a couple of people with dynamite can duplicate the chaos and destruction that it would take hundreds or thousands of people swinging picks and shovels to do. And of course, nuclear weapons are the ultimate expression of this contrast in efficient destruction versus inefficient destruction.

By the same token, because the computer can be deployed in a relatively efficient way, it is much more invasive of people's privacy than, for example, the paper file method that was used in Nazi Germany to keep track of personal information about people. Would it have been possible to hide large numbers of people in attics or cellars for years if the Nazis had the computer technology that is available to the U.S. government today? It is highly unlikely considering that computers monitor the water, electricity, and gas used at houses, and it is not uncommon for utility companies to notify law enforcement agencies of abnormal usage. Additionally, the government has virtually unbridled access to all your bank, credit card, and investment accounts as well as such things as your phone records. There are so many computerized red flags that could be set off that it would be extraordinarily difficult to conceal people in the United States the way they were in Nazi-occupied countries during World War II.

Tyrants of the past would be green with envy for the way in which computers facilitate the monitoring of almost our every move. In 1981, I told a skeptic

tical friend that the computer was the greatest threat to freedom ever created. The computer destroys privacy, and without privacy, what freedom is there except in one's mind? George Orwell drove this point home with a sledge hammer in his book "1984." I'd like to review just a few of the news items I've seen in the past few months for a reality check on how valid my observation of 15 years ago was.

The first article of note appeared in October 1995 issue of AMERICAN HERITAGE magazine and detailed how the Defense Department, through the Air Force, spent many millions financing the development of the Internet. The Defense Department needed to develop a means of communication that wouldn't be disabled during a nuclear war, when all conventional means of communication (radio and telephone) could be rendered useless by direct physical destruction and atmospheric electromagnetic interference. The Internet is not a product of the free market, it solely owes its existence to the desire of the Defense Department to make nuclear war a practical alternative to conventional warfare. In a twist of the norm for government-funded projects, the U.S. government is apparently getting something of real value in return for financing the creation of the Internet. According to the February 1996 issue of BOARDWATCH Magazine, over 90% of all U.S. defense related information traffic is presently carried over the Internet.

The second article ("Wisecrackers") appeared in the March 1996 issue of WIRED MAGAZINE. It details how wise the words of Edgar Allan Poe (the poet and amateur cryptographer) were when he wrote, "It may roundly be asserted that human ingenuity cannot concoct a cipher which human ingenuity cannot resolve." The relative ineffectiveness of computer security systems is obvious by the number of cases where hackers have broken into not just top secret government computers, but the computer systems of large private companies (like the phone company) who have the resources to employ the best and brightest computer security experts. In the article, Phil Zimmermann, who wrote the world's most widely used computer encryption program, PGP (Pretty Good Privacy), admits that PGP is vulnerable to being cracked. The editor of BOARDWATCH Magazine, Jack Rickard, has suggested not putting faith in any encryption program to protect your pri-

vacy. At some point, perhaps even right now, the government will be able to read any encrypted electronic mail message as easily as you're reading this.

The third article was in a COMPUTER BITS magazine and reported that the U.S. Energy Department is paying Intel \$45 million to develop a computer that is 10 times faster than any existing computer. The official purpose of the computer is to simulate the effects of a nuclear war in real time. This computer will be capable of making 1.8 trillion computations per second, which is the equivalent computing power of 90,000 Pentium computers. When this computer isn't playing war games there is nothing to prevent it from being used to crack previously unbreakable encryption codes (see above).

The fourth article was in the January 1996 issue of DISCOVER magazine. It is about how the Defense Department, through the Army, is financing the development of computer technology that can recognize faces. The recognition technology currently has a 98% success rate, so it is far beyond the experimental stage. The Defense Department originally wanted to develop the software for security purposes (the software works by separating a face into hundreds of zones, so it is highly successful at detecting disguises and plastic surgery, since they might only change a small part of a face) and they intend to share it with government law enforcement agencies. This is one of the most terrifying developments imaginable. The government plans to have a national database of faces to which every law enforcement agency in the U.S. will have access. This database could be used when you apply for a driver's license. Your photo would be checked to see if you had a license in any other state, and whether you are in fact who you claim to be. The same could be done when you apply for a passport. Private companies want this technology for their own identification purposes. Stores could have cameras set up so that everyone coming into a store would be photographed and their image would be compared to a database of known shoplifters or people known for credit card fraud.

The fifth item is the U.S. Postal Service's campaign to have jurisdiction over computer electronic mail sent within, into, or out of the United States. News items about this have appeared in newspapers and computer magazines. Officially, they want this power to be able to monitor obscene material (such as kiddie porn) that might be transmitted electronically, just as they now have that power over things sent through the mail. In reality, I think they want to have their jurisdiction for postal crimes expanded to cover electronic mail, just as it already covers telegrams and wire transfers of money. It is not widely known, but many people have been and are currently being prosecuted for violating postal statutes, and nothing else. For example, Don King, the boxing promoter, recently had a mistrial declared in his prosecution for violating postal statutes. He was accused

Statement of Purpose

Voluntaryists are advocates of non-political, non-violent strategies to achieve a free society. We reject electoral politics, in theory and in practice, as incompatible with libertarian principles. Governments must cloak their actions in an aura of moral legitimacy in order to sustain their power, and political methods invariably strengthen that legitimacy. Voluntaryists seek instead to deligitimize the State through education, and we advocate withdrawal of the cooperation and tacit consent on which State power ultimately depends.

of fraud related to a wire transfer of money.

The sixth article, "Government Access—The National Wiretap System", appeared in the February 1996 issue of BOARDWATCH Magazine and detailed how federal legislation has been passed that, if implemented, will create a National Wiretap System. "The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act" passed on October 7, 1994 makes it mandatory for telephone companies to provide government access to all telephone transmissions in the United States under threat of a civil penalty of \$10,000 per day for non-compliance. The only thing preventing the implementation of this "Act" is the \$500 million dollars that the government is mandated to pay the telephone companies for installation of the necessary equipment.

Under the "Act" the government would have the capability of simultaneously monitoring 1% of the total engineered telephone capacity for metropolitan areas in the United States! What this means is that at certain times of low phone usage (such as from midnight to 6 A.M.), the government would have the capability to monitor literally every phone conversation in the United States at the same time! This could be done in the same way that the NSA now monitors calls into and out of the United States. Computer equipment is set to "listen" for key words and when these key words are used in a conversation, recording equipment is activated. And who would be allowed to engage in this snooping? To quote from the article:

"CALEA" says "government ... means the government of the United States and any agency or instrumentality thereof, ...and any State or political subdivision thereof authorized by law to conduct electronic surveillance.... This wiretap system ain't just for elite federal troops. It's for local cops (LAPD comes to mind), rural constables, politicized sheriffs, zealous prosecutors and all local and state agencies with any electronic surveillance authority—as well as the IRS, INS, ATF, FBI, CIA, DIA and ... DEA. Hell, even most park rangers could use it legally!"

The seventh article, "Cyberworld Monitor—We have found the enemy! And, it is us!" also appeared in the February 1996 issue of BOARDWATCH Magazine and explains how the Department of Defense has established a Director of "Information Warfare" and is actively pursuing the creation of an "Information Corps." The Information Corps would be an elite military force developed to mastermind information attacks and countermeasures. Under the cloak of national security initiatives, this group would act not only to defend our borders against alien attacks of aggression, but also to protect the nation's Government from its own citizens.

The eighth item is the widely reported attack federal and state governments are making on free speech over the Internet (given the military's reliance on the Internet, the Federal government probably

doesn't even need an act of Congress to impose controls; they can do so by indiscriminate fiat through the catch all of "National Security").

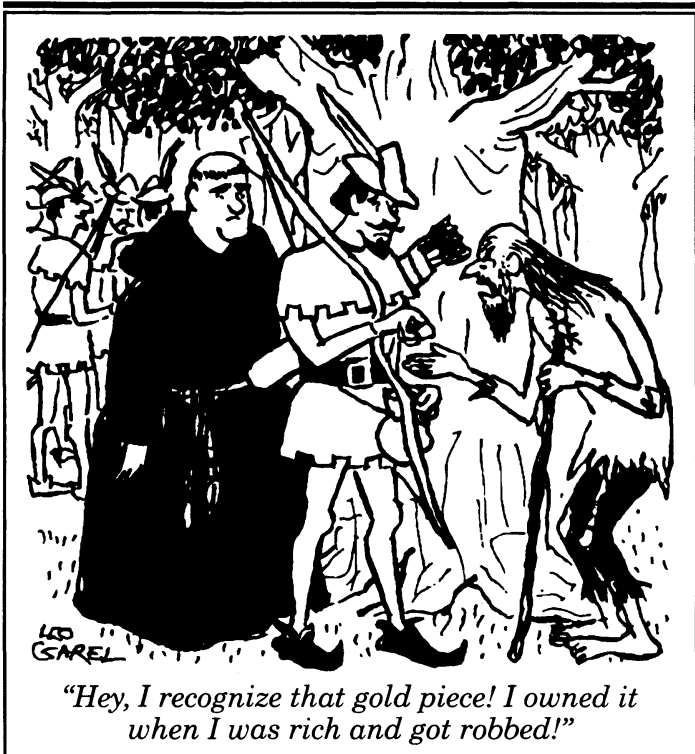
The ninth item is that the IRS's national computer system is scheduled to go online within the next couple of years. This system will enable IRS personnel anywhere in the United States to have instantaneous access to all information that the IRS has on each and every one of us.

Taken as a whole, these few news items are almost mind-numbing and they are only the tip of the iceberg. It is sobering to consider that the government couldn't be doing any of these things without the aid of the computer. My worst fears and more have already been realized. The ability of the computer to process vast amounts of information is every petty bureaucrat's and would-be ruler's dream come true.

However, the government's exploitation of computer technology doesn't mean there is reason for unnecessary despair. Although there will always be people who work to enslave the body, mind, and soul of those who seek to carry forth the uniqueness of the human spirit, the "spark of life"—that desire for human freedom and individuality—is difficult to extinguish. SPARTACUS, the book by Howard Fast (upon which the movie was based), illustrates that even in imperial Rome, men who were born into slavery (and whose ancestors had been slaves for several generations) still had the unquenchable desire to be free of the shackles of tyranny. The slave revolts, designated by historians as the Servile Wars, continued for over a hundred years.

The governments of the world may use the computer (or even some new invention or technology) to monitor, track, and otherwise attempt to suppress the "fire of human individuality." But they are doomed to fail as long as that fire burns within at least one man and one woman who wittingly or unwittingly pass it along to their offspring.

[Editor's Note: This article was submitted by an anonymous contributor. While editing it for publication, I read portions of Jerry Mander's book, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SACRED: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations (1991). Mander makes the point that technology is *not* neutral. Modern-era computers were developed by the British and American military during World War II to make their killing more efficient. "The U.S. military continues to be the largest single financial source for computer science research in the world. ... One could argue that the recent consumerization of the computer is merely a glamorization, to help create public" acceptance of computer technology, "when (government and) military use of computers is really the point." (p. 74) If the use of computers had been pioneered by private industry, rather than the military, then one might be able to argue that computers were not tainted by their origin in the militarism of the State.] ▣



Private Charities

continued from page 1

publishes and distributes INSIDE JOURNAL, its free bimonthly newspaper, to prisoners all across the United States. "Prison Fellowship is supported solely by charitable donations. It accepts no government assistance. The annual operating budget is approximately \$24 million," and about "80 percent of all donations go toward direct ministry."

III. Step 13, 2029 Larimer Street, Denver CO 80205

My first exposure to this organization: was through a November 1994 article in READER'S DIGEST, "A Hand Up—Not A Handout." Bob Cote, an ex-alcoholic, started Step 13 in October 1983 by offering to help nine of his buddies, all of whom were either dope addicts or alcoholics, to straighten out their lives. They accomplished this by getting minimum wage jobs and restoring an old flophouse, where they could live. In 1987, Step 13 moved into another shelter, a building owned by the Disabled American Veterans. Residents are required to have a regular job, "make their own beds, cook their own meals, clean up afterwards, attend Bible studies, and submit to random urine screens and breathalyzer tests." As residents prove their ability to overcome their addictions and hold a steady job, they progress from barrack-type dormitories to semi-private, and, finally, private rooms. Gradually they assume full responsibility for their lives, so they will know the things they need to know when they move out and get their own apartment. Over 2000 men have been residents at Step 13, and more than one-third have recovered from their addiction. By contrast, only about 1% of those

who receive government assistance recover from drug addiction or alcoholism. "Step 13 costs about \$ 3000 per man annually, one-fifth of what it costs to keep a person for only 28 days in some detox centers. Residents pay about half of that from their wages, and donations take care of the other half." Cote refuses to "solicit or accept taxpayer money" and is always on the look out for entrepreneurial opportunities to develop the skills of his residents. His latest project is a car detailing business "so that Rockies fans can park their vehicles in a secure yard before the game and have Step 13 residents shine, wax, and clean them over the next three hours."

IV. Alcoholics Anonymous

A.A. is an unusual organization in many ways. It is a "voluntary fellowship of alcoholic persons who seek to get sober and remain sober through self-help and the help of other recovered alcoholics." A.A. can not really be classified as a charity because it not only rejects government funds, but all outside funding. Tradition Seven of AA's "Twelve Traditions" is: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

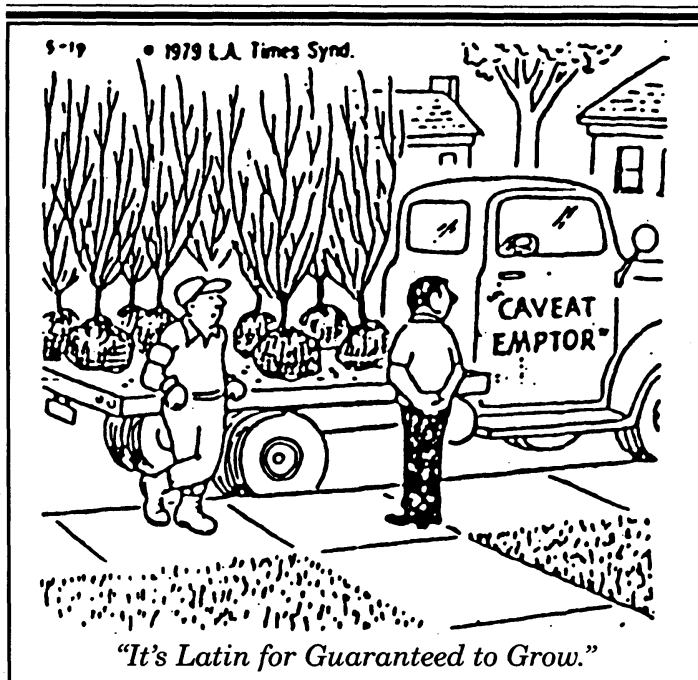
During the last year, two readers, who have had personal experiences with A.A., have pointed out to me that Alcoholics Anonymous is based on voluntaryist precepts. Both have given me permission to print their reflections, which follow:

AA is the most libertarian organization—oops, make that read "fellowship"—of which I am aware. The individual member and the individual groups are the "sovereign authorities" in AA. How does an individual become a member? By declaring herself a member. What dues are required? None. Is abstinence required? Nope. "The only requirement for membership is desire to stop drinking." Of course even that requirement can be avoided since profession of the desire is not requisite. The tens of thousands of AA groups, through their elected representatives, direct the service structure of AA (i.e., General Services, Cleveland District Office, etc.). Each group is autonomous. Even gentle coercion such as the shunning practiced by the Amish could not be invoked by anyone in AA against a rebellious individual or a renegade group. "The only authority is a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."

Among the many benefits I have extracted from my AA experience is a certain confidence in the ability of people to accomplish difficult and enigmatic objectives, like getting alcoholics to stop drinking, without resort to coercion.

—Submitted by Jim R.

I was wondering how far back in my life it was that I first became exposed to libertarianism as a voluntaryist philosophy. Obviously, Bob LeFevre's Rampart College Freedom School course in the early "sixties" helped me to get rid of many serious inconsistencies, but, my earliest exposure to the importance of individual freedom had begun twenty years



earlier.

Back in the "forties," when I was in my twenties just out of the Marines, it became clear to me that I could not handle alcohol in the same manner as social drinkers. They benefitted from this type of social relaxation whereas I always seemed to end up in trouble. I needed help.

So, I called the Veterans Administration. They, at that time, had no program for alcoholic veterans. My Mother had read a copy of the March 1941 Jack Alexander article in the SATURDAY EVENING POST about the newly formed Alcoholics Anonymous program. She gave me a copy. I called AA in Los Angeles.

Two ex-boozers came out to see me and asked me if I could stay sober the next day when they would take me to an evening AA meeting. We went to the Mayflower Group on Figueroa. That was fifty years ago. It began with a discovery of freedom and the ruination of my drinking.

Bill Wilson and Bob Smith were the co-founders of AA. Dr. Bob was heavy on religion and Bill was "middle of the road." While Bill was writing the AA book, he accepted much of what the AA agnostics advised and wherever *God* was written, "as we understood him" followed. The important point here was for the alcoholic to understand that he was *Not God*. Furthermore, everything offered, including the Twelve Steps were to be suggestions only. In accordance with Dr. Howard's (a psychiatrist) suggestion he eliminated the use of the words *you* and *must*. The purpose was "to remove all forms of coercion" from the program (page 167, AA Comes of Age).

Wilson, also wrote, (page 75, *ibid*) that alcoholics would not take pressure in any form, except from John Barleycorn itself. Nor would they accept "team guidance" for their own personal lives. Authoritarianism was out. Most of the successful

members today seek inner-direction in this self-help program.

It was about this time, in my first 13 years of sobriety, that I realized the importance of freedom. On the basis of individual responsibility from which each recovering alcoholic builds his own freedom philosophy, freedom from coercion means that each of us minds his own business. It follows that your freedom stops at the end of my nose and my freedom stops at the end of yours. Each individual takes only his own inventory and there can be no banishment because the only requirement of AA membership is "a desire to stop drinking." And, I am the only one who can say if I really have that desire to stop drinking and the same for each member.

This 60 year program of voluntaryism—using no government funds for support—today consists of millions of successful recovering alcoholics throughout the world. Drug addicts find that they too can recover in AA. After all, alcohol is also a drug.

It should put the numerous government prohibitions and government coercive programs to shame.

Remember, it was just after repeal of prohibition that AA got its start. Perhaps, a repeal of all drug related prohibitions might help get government coercion off of the addicts' backs.

Furthermore, it would eliminate the indirect government price supports for addictive drugs only available in the black market. Voluntary self-help drug programs should be followed by a clear cut reduction in crime. Obviously, a worse crime is prohibition.

—Submitted by Al B.

[Author's Addendum: After this article was written the Acton Institute (161 Ottawa NW #301, Grand Rapids, MI 49503) announced the winners of their 1996 Samaritan Awards. The purpose of this program is "to highlight effective, private, faith-based charities involved in turning around and rescuing people from poverty and its related social ills while not relying on government funding." Readers may be interested in contacting the Acton Institute for names and addresses of these charities.] ▮

The Voluntaryist

Whole Number 1-80

October 1982-June 1996

Table of Contents

\$7.00 postpaid

Robert LeFevre: A Tribute

continued from page 8

years ago with stinging logic, it prompted some local patriots to get up and leave, but most of us had our intellectual windows open and understood the significance of it. That, and Bob's other arguments convinced me never to cast a political vote again. Instead, I vote every day, in the marketplace. In the heat of conversion I wanted to get the message to others who would see, also, and one method I chose was to picket the polls during the next election. My placard read, "No Matter Who Wins, We All Lose—Don't Vote!" It was educational. My 10-year-old son walked with me on the picket line for awhile and got to hear one irate voter pull up in his car, call me a communist and tell me to go back to Russia.

Another reputation Bob had was as the definitive pacifist, but I prefer to think of him as the definitive self-responsible individual. His was a consistent morality that recognized the absolute sovereignty of every individual, with total respect for other peoples' property. As such he emphasized protection as the way to minimize the violations of property, whether by physical deterrents or insurance. In order to deal with the adverse reaction that usually comes from advocating no political government—"Why, that's anarchy!"—he wrote "Autarchy vs. Anarchy," where he emphasized the word "autarchy" to describe self-government. As one of the positive alternatives he tried to offer instead of negative criticisms, he pointed out that self-government already governs the great majority of our actions, through voluntary arrangements between individuals or those acting for the primary voluntary organizations that have evolved, the family, the business, and the association. He believed that the small part of our lives now governed politically could be done better and cheaper, as well as morally, by these voluntary organizations, or others that might develop if they were given the chance to function.

Other books that Bob championed were Rose Wilder Lane's *THE DISCOVERY OF FREEDOM*—(must reading for all libertarians), and Murray Rothbard's *WHAT HAS GOVERNMENT DONE TO OUR MONEY?* The Rothbard book and Spooner's *NO TREASON*, were required reading by the thousands who took his seminars for many years. They were indeed fortunate to have experienced Bob first hand for he was a dynamic and articulate speaker who knew his subject well from long years of study and thought.

To help propagate the freedom philosophy Bob started the Freedom School near Colorado Springs, which was later renamed Rampart College. The Rampart College *NEWSLETTER* was published monthly from 1964 until the College moved to Santa Ana in 1969, then continued there for many more years. Bob's writings were made available by subscription

to his quarterly LeFevre's *JOURNAL* for five years, 1974-1978, offering a rich mine of the man's thinking. Some of his earlier writings include *THE NATURE OF MAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT*, and *CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT TODAY IN SOVIET RUSSIA*.

It was my good fortune to be director of the Libertarian Supper Club of Los Angeles for five years, from 1972-1977. During that time Bob was the featured speaker on several occasions. He always drew extra large crowds and was very well received by the people in attendance.

I will remember Bob for many things, but primarily as an inspiration for the incisive effectiveness of his efforts to spread understanding of the freedom philosophy. He lives, as symbolically as other great figures who have gone before him.

[Editor's Note: ROBERT LeFEVRE (1911-1986): "Truth Is Not A Half-way Place" (a full-length biography) is available from THE VOLUNTARYISTS, \$17.00 postpaid.] ▣

Literature Received

Bill Anderson, *HOW THE GOVERNMENT GOT ITS HANDS ON YOUR PAYCHECK* (Available for \$1, from the author at 718 Sunset Drive, Capitola, CA 95010). This short monograph of 32 pages outlines the history of the federal income tax and its collection via the withholding system. It identifies how the United States taxpayer is "the most productive and easily managed subject population in the history of the world." At the conclusion of his study the author writes: "It is my dream that someday a young man or woman will come to work for me and, when payday comes and he has earned \$500, I will be allowed to write a check for exactly \$500 and place it in his hand—value for value, with no deductions, our relationship governed only by the free contract between us and the mutual respect such an agreement requires."

Richard Adams, *THE FREEDOM MANIFESTO: A Plan of Action for Winning Freedom From Government* (Available for \$15 from The New American Freedom Foundation, 13164 Memorial Drive # 190, Houston, TX 77079). Voluntaryists will find this book a mixed bag. On the one hand, the author recognizes that politically coercive government is a criminal institution because it lacks the consent of those over whom it rules; yet, on the other hand, he fails to realize that there has never been a strictly consensual government in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." The "plan of action" consists of selling *THE FREEDOM MANIFESTO*, gathering signatures to "The Freedom Pledge" contained therein, and then soliciting funds to continue these procedures. "The goal is to insure that every person in this country is made fully aware that he or she has a right to choose a better alternative to our present system of government," and then to implement plans for peaceful secession and formation of new defensive associations to protect the rights of those who wish to divorce themselves from the current American government.

Robert LeFevre: A Tribute

By Lloyd Licher

I consider it a rare privilege to have known Bob LeFevre, for he was the most influential of my intellectual antecedents. He's gone now, but I would like to let others know what a profound effect he had on my personal life, as I let him know on the occasion of his last birthday. I wrote that he was one of the special people whose birthdays I celebrate each year by re-reading some of their writings, and expressed gratitude for his having presented his ideas in ways that I was able to absorb. His response was one of the nicest letters I have ever received,

For his birthday (October 13th) I re-read the personal Declaration of Independence in his 1960 book, **THIS BREAD IS MINE**. The first time I read it was probably 20 years ago when I was quite taken up in learning about freedom. It inspired me to draft my own Declaration of Independence, an act that strengthened my resolve to be free.

There is only one kind of immortality in which I believe, the legacy of writings and inspiration from personal contact that a person leaves for others to know what he thought and stood for. Bob has earned a degree of immortality that will be matched by few in libertarian annals. Over most of his adult lifetime he wrote, much to our benefit. At dinner one time after he had given a seminar, when asked about his writing, he said he tried to do some every day, if only

a few sentences. For many years he was editor of the Colorado Springs **GAZETTE-TELEGRAPH**, one of the chain of Freedom Newspapers, including the Santa Ana **REGISTER**. The editors of the papers wrote editorials almost daily, which they exchanged and printed in each others' papers, such that each paper had several each day. I subscribed to the **REGISTER** for many years, just to read the editorials on all sorts of topical subjects, knowing that some were by Bob (all were unsigned). They were always written from a very principled, freedom-oriented point of view, evoking many letters-to-the-editor from those whose mental crutches were knocked askew thereby. Bob wrote other pieces for the newspapers, too, including one titled "Democracy With a Small 'd'," extolling the virtues of the marketplace over the political place. I bought a batch of reprints of it and it helped inspire a bumper sticker which I co-published at the time which said "VOTE WHERE IT COUNTS—IN THE MARKETPLACE."

Bob earned a reputation as the great political neutralizer, for the effect he had on getting people to realize that participation in the political process was part of the problem, not the solution, and thus withdrawing from it. The first time I heard of Lysander Spooner was when Bob quoted some of his **NO TREASON: The Constitution of No Authority**, at a talk he gave in The Register building. As a challenge to the validity of the U.S. Constitution, written over 100

continued on page 7

The Voluntaryist

P.O. Box 1275 • Gramling, South Carolina 29348



FIRST CLASS-TIME VALUE

Please renew your subscription if the number on your address label is within one digit of this issue's number.