

# WHAT IS GOING ON?

## AT THE LP! NATIONAL CONVENTION

A Service of the Libertarian Party Radical Caucus for delegates

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Many rumours are floating at this convention and claims and counter-claims are being hurled back and forth. This sheet should provide more information for the thoughtful delegate to make rational judgments.

Rumour: The radical caucus is out to bust up the Con.

FACT: The LPrC has always supported the most promising reformer against the entrenched Party Machine of Boss Nolan and his henchmen. The LPrC gives every chance to the delegates to prove that they can construct a moral, effective, pure libertarian organization in the form of a political party.

Rumour: In New York, the rc turned the Party into a "shambles" (one source-- Murray Rothbard in LF).

FACT: The radical caucus walked out of the FLP Convention before any of the votes, and quietly sat at the literature table. The ideas remained behind in those people who sincerely wanted to make the Party work and remain truly libertarian as well. And it was their vote which "decentralized" the Party and so on and defeated the Centralists attempt to build up a Party "Machine" which Dr. Rothbard believes is necessary. These sincere delegates believed that they could have a Party which was not "Tammany Hall" and voted down Dr. Rothbard's Machine.

Rumour: Eric Scott Royce was trying to prevent opposing delegates being seated by challenging credentials.

FACT: A young, idealistic supporter of Royce thought that rules were being violated and, even though the extra delegates contained hard core Reformers and radicals, tried to keep the party what he considered to be honest.

Rumour: Crane challenged the credentials of several of his own members of the California delegation.

FACT: True! They were members of the Peace and Freedom Party and supporters of radical positions, and suspected to be sympathetic to Royce and the rc. The Nolan Machine is far more organised and coordinated than the ad hoc, recently thrown together Reformers and other concerned delegates who are trying to save the Party through the Royce candidacy.

Rumour: Crane has the backing of Murray Rothbard, Roger MacBride, John Hospers and Tony Nathan.

FACT: True.

Rumour: They are backing him because of Crane's superior "administrative" ability and to keep the Party together.

FACT: Rothbard is out to stop any candidate backed by the radical caucus (see Libertarian Forum, April, 1974. The rc has Xerox copies of the appropriate article, if you request) Regardless of Dr. Rothbard's other hard core positions, he makes no bones about wanting a powerful, centralized Machine to run the LP, and He Believes Ed Crane is the Man For The Job-- and Scott Royce would not do it! MacBride is opposing Royce because of internal Virginia politics and what he imagines to have been a personal slight. (OVER)

(Continued from overleaf)

Tonie Nathan is a hard-backed minarchist, who even goaded mild-mannered Andrea Millen into a retort in the 1973 CON, with Andrea's famous line: "Well, I'm an anarchist!"

Hospers is probably the only one of the bunch who really believes the Crane claim.

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Rumour: Andrea Millen is supporting, and supported by the Crane/Nolan Machine.

FACT: True that Boss Nolan is supporting Millen. True that Crane is going out of his way to identify with Andrea, to latch onto her coat-tails. Andrea is a strong decentralist and will not knowingly support a Machine of Centralists. She has the solid support of the most divided, radical-to-supercentralist, delegation. Royce has recognized her virtues and refused to support anyone against her even though she is used by the Machines.

Rumour: Royce, and especially his more radical supporters, are pursuing "rule or ruin" tactics.

FACT: Royce has pledged to work as hard as ever should he be defeated; Crane has made no statement on what he will do should the Nolan Machine be overthrown. Even the radical caucus has sworn never to "rule" since the hard core and its activists do not believe that the Libertarian Party cannot consistently libertarian. As far as "ruin", read the first page again.

Rumour: Ed Crane has been involved in censoring reports of anti-Nolan Machine activities in State Meetings and Conventions.

FACT: The 1973 Free Libertarian Party Convention was a hard-fought battle between the Partyarchy and the radical caucus. The FLPrC won two positions on the Executive Committee.

Ed Crane wrote the report on the Convention for Reason magazine, implying that there were no contests, ignored the radical caucus, and only listed the elected members of the Executive Committee who were not in the RC.

Rumour: Boss Nolan has used the LP Newsletter to suppress dissent.

FACT: LP News also ignored the battle at the 1973 FLP State Con, completely failed to report the 1974 FLP State Con, refused to run an ad for New Libertarian Notes and refused it again even though it was pre-set and immediate payment was offered. Other ads have, as I am sure most of you remember, been enclosed in LP News of nearly all stripes--but none of them included a publication that has a strongly anti-Nolan Machine editorial policy. Nolan finally, realizing the seriousness of the charges that would be leveled against him, put a brief, innocuous announcement about NLN having a "reception" at the LP Con.

Rumour: Crane will keep the Party together, Royce will break it up.

FACT: Royce has supporters from the most conservative limited governmentals to the most radical anti-Party anarchists. What they have in common is an attempt to save the Party from becoming another Machine like the other minor Parties (SWP, SLP, AIP, Liberal Party of New York, Conservative Party of New York, etc., all have total centralization and a strong Boss running them, and deliver voted to major party candidates when expedient. It also has thousands of people who would otherwise support them completely turned off of supporting their Parties.) Crane's supporters are ALL Establishment; e.g., Lynn Kinsky of Reason, previously not even a delegate, is running on the Crane slate. And already has been made evident, Hospers, Rothbard, Nathan, Hospers, etc. are backing Crane and the Nolan Machine.

NOW YOU HAVE THE FACTS AND WHAT IS AT STAKE. VOTE WITH YOUR CONSCIENCE!