



A NEW
DAY IN
VERMONT

WHAT DOES THE LIBERTY UNION STAND FOR?

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About

Liberty Union:

Four years ago, a small group of Vermonters, disgusted with the do-nothing policies of the Democratic and Republican parties, formed a new political party to fight for the interests of working people. They called the Liberty Union and in the last four years that party has grown from a handful of people to a party which is now supported by thousands of working Vermonters. During this campaign, the Liberty Union will be running candidates for every major state and national office and dozens of candidates for the state legislature and county office.

Over the years, the Liberty Union party has distinguished itself from its do-nothing opponents by having the guts to stand up to the banks and corporations who own America and the state of Vermont. When the major electric companies in Vermont, which are predominantly owned and controlled by out-of-state banks and corporations, decided to raise their electric rates by as much as 65%, it was not the Democrats or Republicans who fought them. IT WAS THE LIBERTY UNION.

When the telephone company, which made 3 billion dollars in profits last year, decided to raise its rates by 23% in Vermont, it was not the Democrats or Republicans who fought them...it was the Liberty Union. When the Pizzigalli Construction Company, and other large construction firms in the state, decided to break the organized labor movement in that industry and substantially lower the standard of living of the workers, it was not the Democrats or Republicans who provided help. It was the Liberty Union.

In March, when a constitutional amendment on the town meeting ballot would have extended the length of term of

WE BELIEVE that it is wrong for some people to have billions of dollars while other people have nothing, and that it is wrong for a handful of people at the heads of huge multi-billion dollar banks and corporations to determine the economic conditions under which we all have to live.

-That the wealth and resources of this state and nation should be used to provide the best possible life for all the people, instead of being used to provide huge profits for a small number of wealthy and powerful financial interest groups.

-That democracy should exist in the workplace, the school system, and the market place - and not be limited to one chance to vote every 2 or 4 years for candidates who are virtually alike.

-That utility service - such as electricity and telephone - are basic necessities of life which must not be priced out of the reach of ordinary people.

-That every citizen is entitled to a decent job at a decent wage under safe working conditions. We believe that people should not have to choose between work under hazardous conditions and no work at all.

-That everyone is entitled to a fair return for their labor - including those who are self-employed such as farmers and shopkeepers.

-That senior citizens are valuable members of society and should be given the opportunity for meaningful participation in that society - free from economic deprivation.

-That women are equal to men and that both sexes should be treated with respect and dignity - having equal rights and sharing equal responsibilities.

-That in a free society, the government should not interfere in the personal lives of the citizens.

-That it is wrong for any country to take advantage of the labor and resources of any other nation.

the Governor and all statewide office holders from two years to four years, and further erode the power which average people have over their government, it was the Liberty Union alone which led the fight that defeated that amendment. Every member of the Democratic State Executive Committee supported that amendment and every top state office holder supported it. But we won.

In the last year, while corporate profits in America have soared by 30%, the real income of the average working person has actually declined by 4 1/2 % because of inflation. In the state of Vermont, unemployment is now officially listed at 7.9% (although it is actually much higher); tens of thousands of workers earn the starvation wage of \$2.00 an hour, and our senior citizens, who are often

dependent upon a fixed income, are in desperate economic condition. Our farmers, whose products are needed more than ever in a world faced with mass starvation, are being driven off the land, and our young people are forced to LEAVE THE STATE AND SEEK EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE.

In this nation the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the people in the middle are finding it harder and harder just to survive. We in Liberty Union believe that it is absolutely absurd that some people, like the Rockefeller family, are allowed to have billions of dollars in personal wealth and, more importantly, control hundreds of billions of dollars in the national and world economy; while the vast majority of people, who work hard for

their income, have scarcely enough money to adequately provide for their families.

It is wrong for a United States Congress, which is dominated by big business, to provide giant loop-holes for the huge corporations while the average working person is forced to pick up the tax burden that the corporations and millionaires sneak away from.

We think it is criminal that the United States government, because of the influence of big business, spends billions of the tax payers' dollars supporting virtually every military dictatorship in the world, and then tells us that there is "no money available" to provide a decent retirement program for the elderly or to reduce taxes.

WE IN LIBERTY UNION BELIEVE THAT THE TIME IS NOW FOR WORKING PEOPLE AND SENIOR CITIZENS, FOR STUDENTS AND WOMEN, FOR ALL PEOPLE OF INDEPENDENT MIND AND SPIRIT TO STAND TOGETHER AND FIGHT BACK. Despite what the politicians may think, the state of Vermont is not made up predominantly of bankers and lawyers, real estate speculators or corporate executives. On the contrary, the vast majority of the people of this state are low income and working people.

Alone, there is not much that one person can do against the huge corporations which dominate our state and nation, and the politicians who represent their interests. But if we stand together, organize and fight back for our interests - we can win. If you are an ordinary citizen who is disgusted with the Democrats and Republicans we urge you to run for office on the Liberty Union, work with the Liberty Union, and vote for Liberty Union. If we stand together, we can win. For information about Liberty Union write P.O. Box 602, Essex Junction, Vt. or call 863-6666.

THE

LIBERTY UNION



Martha Abbott, Liberty Union candidate for Governor, helped to found the Liberty Union in 1970 and has devoted a great deal of time and energy over the last four years to strengthening and expanding the third party on a statewide basis. She has been especially active in organizing opposition to utility rate increases.

As a candidate for Governor, Martha is emphasizing the reasons for the financial plight of Vermonters. She has said: "Vermont should move rapidly in the direction of freeing itself economically from the domination of Boston banks and New York investment houses. As long as Vermont's resources and Vermonters' labor continues to be drained out of the state to enrich the coffers of wealthy and powerful financiers, the wage scale and unemployment level will continue to work a hardship on Vermont's working people."

We shouldn't be loaning out money to try to entice more out-of-state businessmen to come to Vermont. Instead, we should use money like that allocated to AID (Aid to Industrial Development) to loan to Vermont workers to start new industries. This money could also be used to make loans to workers who want to buy out the places they now work in, some of which are being closed down by their owners. The industries could be run on a co-operative basis with each worker having an equal say in the policies of the company, and the profits could go toward paying back the state loan.

Martha has also called for a public takeover of the utility companies to stop the flow of millions of dollars each year out of Vermont rate payers' money to wealthy, out-of-state stock and bond holders. Martha says: "Vermonters cannot afford to go on paying higher and higher utility rates and increases on the order of 65%, (the amount being requested by Green Mountain Power).

While the other candidates for Governor have expressed concern over the financial plight of the utilities, Martha has blasted them for not speaking out about the desperate economic condition of the rate payer. She has said that people should not be forced to choose between eating or keeping their homes warm.

"Under public ownership, each rate payer would have one vote in the operation of the utility. The management would then be working for the rate payers, not the stockholders. The rates would be lower because we wouldn't be paying out profits and money could be borrowed much more cheaply than it is now.

Nancy Kaufman is the Liberty Union candidate for Attorney General. If elected, she would act as an advocate of the working people, consumers, and rate payers of the state; and it is to them that she would be responsible. For the past two years, Nancy, as a lawyer, has been a primary opponent of the utility and telephone companies in Vermont. She has fought their continual rate increase requests on behalf of low income clients.

From her experience representing low income clients, she has seen the working people of this state abused and unrepresented by state government, with the Public Service Board openly siding with the utility companies.

In the past two years, the Attorney General has done nothing to stop rate increases, or to prosecute big business that robs the people of this state by charging high interest rates and by price fixing, or to protect the civil rights of women and of political dissidents.

Todd Manley, 22, a native Vermonter, is the Liberty Union candidate for Secretary of State. He has worked with the Liberty Union party for two years, and through these activities and his job as a VISTA he has come in contact with hundreds of low and middle income Vermonters.

Todd is trying to call attention to the political nature of the Secretary of State's job. One very political aspect is that he/she charters corporations to operate in Vermont. Todd thinks that the chartering process should be opened up to Vermonters and that they should decide on the standards a corporation has to meet in order to do business in Vermont. Among the areas he thinks Vermonters should examine are a corporation's hiring practices, wages and working conditions, unionization policy, prices charged for products, who gets management jobs, and actions of the corporation which affect the environment. "Too many businesses come to Vermont and hire people for low wages, drain Vermont's resources and money away, mess up the environment and then leave the state when they can make more money elsewhere."

The Secretary of State also administers election laws, and should be the leader in pushing for electoral reform. Specific proposals Todd Manley wants to see are:

1. A leave of absence from jobs for workers who wish to run for office, with a guaranteed return.
2. Unemployment benefits for people running for office who make less than \$12,000 a year.
3. Free radio and television time for candidates and two free mailings to all the people in a candidate's district.



"If only the lawyers, real estate brokers and bankers can afford to run for office, how real is democracy? Our electoral process has to enable working people to start breaking up the power of people like the Rockefellers with their giant corporations and banks. Getting more working people into office, who can protect their own interests, is a good start."

For these reasons - and to represent the real interests of the people of this state not those of big business and the wealthy - Nancy Kaufman is running for the office of Attorney General. These inter-include:

- A moratorium on all utility rate increases and public ownership of all electric utilities.
- A moratorium on all nuclear power plants, construction and operation.
- An immediate evacuation and shut down of Windsor State Prison.
- Protection of rights to equal employment regardless of sex, race, creed, or political belief.
- An end to discriminatory and illegal pricing and credit practices by home heating oil dealers and distributors.
- Expansion and enforcement of right to know laws.

Michael Parenti, Liberty Union candidate for U.S. House of Representatives is a 41 year old resident of Putney, Vt., and a community activist and political scientist who was fired from his teaching job at U.V.M. for standing up for his beliefs. He has written numerous books and articles on behalf of working people and against such things as business profiteering, big government, and the Vietnam War.



He wants to see the giant corporations broken up & the resources of the nation reorganized & owned by the people of the nation. As steps in changing the government's priorities, Michael proposes the following:

- End the federal government's massive giveaway program to big business. End business subsidies, artificially rigged prices, tax loopholes for the rich and corporations. Build a tax system where each person pays their fair share.
- End military waste and inflationary military spending. Stop supporting dictatorships around the world with foreign aid.
- End the use of all nuclear power plants. Invest funds to develop clean, safe alternative energy systems.
- Develop needed social services like low income housing, less highways and more hospitals and schools, national health care to heal the sick rather than enrich the doctors, less money spent on outer space and war machinery and more spent for the needs of the people.

Michael has said: "Ultimately, we need people's ownership of the resources and wealth of this great nation so that our labor will be used for public need rather than corporate greed."

STATE-WIDE CANDIDATES

Bernard Sanders, Liberty Union candidate for the U.S. Senate, has become well known among Vermonters as a staunch advocate of the interests of working people. In two past campaigns, he has spoken out on the inherent injustice in a system where the vast majority of the wealth and decision-making power is held by a very small percentage of the people.

During this campaign, Bernie intends to concentrate his attention on the multi-billion dollar banks - such as Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan - which dominate one entire industry after another. The Chase Manhattan, for example, is the major stockholder in C.B.S. and N.B.C. and the third major stockholder in A.B.C. The Chase Manhattan is the major stockholder in A.T.&T., General Electric, Union Carbide, United Airlines, American Airlines, Northwest Airlines, National Airlines, Safeway Stores - to mention a small number of their investments



Bernard Sanders believes that the nation has the wealth, natural resources, and labor productivity to provide a decent standard of living for every man, woman, and child. He feels that the basic reason that our economy is deteriorating and that our democracy is threatened is that the people who hold the economic and political power in this country are not concerned about the needs of ordinary people - but rather about the accumulation of billions more in profits. Sanders believes that the huge multi-billion dollar banks and corporations have got to be broken up and that the economic and political power of the nation must be returned to the people.

"Two years ago, the major contractors in Vermont set out to destroy the trade unions in the state. It's been a long hard fight, and it's not over yet. During this time I have learned a lot about how the so-called "system" works to rob the average men and women of Vermont of their economic stability, their right to a decent job and a decent wage, and of their dignity and respect. I have learned from the direct experience of our labor struggle, that it is big business which controls things, that the politicians do not respect people, and that there is no difference between the Republican and Democratic parties."

Arthur Deloy, Liberty Union candidate for Lt. Governor is not the kind of politician who has to have his picture taken with a hard-hat on to demonstrate his feelings about labor, and the low income and working people of Vermont. He has been a member of the Laborer's Local Union #522 for 24 years, 18 of those years as business manager. His dedication to the people of Vermont shows clearly that there is no conflict of interest in his campaign. (Both of his opponents are real estate brokers.)

Neither is Art the kind of man who plays smart politics by keeping his mouth shut on important issues. This has been obvious for years, as he has fought the contractors in Vermont who are trying to break the backs of the unions. He has openly blasted Tom Salmon who ignored the advice of his own fact finding panel, which documented union-busting activities and suggested that the state not award any contracts to such companies.

One of Art's aims has been strengthen the existing unions. But as he has said, "I do not seek to represent only the interests of union people in the state of Vermont, nor only those of the working people, but the interests of all middle and low income people. In the coming months, I will be asking labor unions and many other groups if I can attend their meeting to ask their support for the Liberty Union Party."

Art has expressed the need for the following reforms:

- Complete health care regardless of income.
- Adequate welfare and unemployment benefits for all who need them. He has demanded the resignation of Welfare Commissioner Philbrook who has cut General Assistance to all people without dependents to one week out of every two months. Art has said that these cuts will only serve to aggravate the already desperate and competitive job situation.
- Livable, reasonably priced housing for all.
- Reasonable utility rates. Art has blasted Salmon for his support of a 65% Green Mountain Power rate increase.
- A tax structure that taxes those who have more money than they need to live comfortably on.



If Art were Lt. Governor, his duties would include presiding over the Senate, acting as a liaison between the Governor and the Legislature, and replacing the Governor when he or she is out-of-state. As Art campaigns around the state asking support for his bid to become the next Lt. Governor of Vermont - he finds that people do not even know who the present Lt. Governor is or what he does. Art Deloy says: "When I am elected Lt. Governor, the working people of Vermont will know who their Lt. Governor is."

STOP UTILITY RATE INCREASES!

During the last two years the cost of electricity in the state of Vermont has gone up by approximately 50%, and there appears to be no end in sight. The Green Mountain Power Company, which was recently granted a 55% temporary rate increase, is in the process of applying for a permanent rate increase of 65%. The Central Vermont Public Service Corporation is in the process of filing for a 30% increase in rates. The New England Telephone Company has recently been allowed by the Public Service Board to begin putting into effect a 23% rate increase, under bond, until the deliberations are completed and the case decided.

While Governor Salmon, his Republican opponents, and the Vermont Public Service Board bemoan the financial problems of the utility companies, and defend the rate increase requests, there is one simple fact which these gentlemen ignore. THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN VERMONT SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO KEEP PAYING MORE AND MORE FOR UTILITIES. Where are working people going to get the money to pay for the skyrocketing utility bills? Are they going to get the money by cutting down on the amount of food they purchase,

or by taking money away from their children's education, or by cutting corners on the money they allocate for the doctor and dentist, or from the two weeks vacation they had hoped to take? UTILITY RATE INCREASES HAVE GOT TO STOP - NOW! THE LIBERTY UNION CALLS FOR A MORATORIUM ON ALL UTILITY RATE INCREASES AND A ROLL-BACK IN RATES TO JANUARY 1, 1974.

Without exception, the major owners of the 3 large Vermont utilities - New England Telephone Co., Central Vermont Public Service Corp., and Green Mountain Power - are out-of-state banks, corporations, and wealthy individuals. As a result of soaring corporate profits, which were up 30% last year, there is no question but that these financiers are far better able to absorb the increased costs of the utilities than is the average working Vermonter.

The New England Telephone Co., for example, is 85% owned by AT&T - the largest corporation in the world. Last year, AT&T made 3 billion dollars in profits - more than any other corporation in the world. Last year's profits were an 18% increase over the preceding year, and all of these were an all time high for the giant utility. The largest single stock-

holder in AT&T is the Chase Manhattan Bank - a financial institution controlled by the Rockefeller family. Company records for AT&T indicate that .03% of the stockholders own 24% of the stock. This means that a tiny number of some of the richest people in the world are the main beneficiaries of the higher rates that we pay. With regard to the telephone company, Liberty Union believes that there not only should not be any increase in rates but that there should be a reduction in rates and a redesign of the rate structure which would provide for more local and free calls.

Some of the major stockholders of the Central Vermont Public Service Corp. (the largest electric utility in Vermont) are Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith; the Hartford National Bank & Trust Co., the Manufacturer's Hanover Trust, & The New England Merchants Bank. With current projections, this "hard-pressed" company will pay out to its stockholders some 3 million dollars in dividends for the coming year. During the last five years, Central Vermont has paid out 13.9 million dollars in dividends. Central Vermont is

LABOR



A

CALL FOR UNITY

Working people in Vermont have very little power over their workplaces. Much of the manufacturing industry here in Vermont is owned by wealthy individuals and corporations located outside the state. Because industry is in the hands of, and run for, a relatively small number of people, those owners largely decide wage scales, working conditions and the number of jobs in Vermont. An example of the power a few people have over the vast majority of working men and women is shown by the Vermont construction trade union strike.

The strike began in July 1972 when area contractors were due to renegotiate a contract they had signed two years before. But led by Pizzigalli Construction Co., the contractors insisted on eliminating the union security and subcontractor clauses from the contract. Without these clauses the contractors would be free to hire non-union workers for lower wages, effectively destroying the unions.

The five unions which went on strike were the Bricklayers Local 4, Carpenters Local 683, Ironworkers Local 474, Laborers Local 522, and Operating Engineers Local 98. The dispute was not over better wages or working conditions, but over the very existence of the unions themselves. The contractors demonstrated that they had every intention of breaking the unions when they attended an "open shop workshop", five months into the strike, which produced a 67 page booklet giving step by step instructions on how to break unions in the construction industry. The contractors refused to change their demands that the unions commit suicide, and it was six months after the strike started before all the contractors even bothered to be present at a negotiating session.

During his campaign for election, Tom Salmon pledged his support to the unions and his opposition to the tactics of the contractors. As soon as he was elected Governor, however, Mr. Salmon forgot his

promises and did his best to aid the contractors. As a result of several demonstrations, and considerable public opinion, the Governor was forced to appoint a 3-man fact finding panel to investigate the cause of the strike and to make recommendations. This panel, which consisted of a representative from labor, a representative from management, and a neutral chairman, unanimously found that the contractors were not negotiating in good faith and were out to destroy the organized labor movement in the construction industry.

The most important recommendation of the panel was that the state government should not allow any of the union-breaking contractors to bid on state contracts. The feeling of the panel was that it was wrong for taxpayers' money to go to contractors who were involved in an effort to lower the standard of living of the Vermont worker.

The Governor, faced with contractors who had been accused by his own panel of trying to break the unions, did nothing.

The strike is still going on, and there are lessons to be learned from what has happened. The strike is a good example of how working people are at the mercy of a few wealthy people, like the Pizzigalli and other contractors, who control the industry and thus the jobs and lives of thousands of Vermonters. Their interest is solely in increasing profits, and they have not hesitated to do anything to increase their wealth.

Laborer's Local 522 was on the picket line for months - virtually alone. Where were the politicians they had elected to represent them? Where were the Democrats and Republicans who - during every campaign - tell us how much they are concerned about the needs of working people? They were not to be heard from. The members of the construction unions and their families learned the very sad lesson that when the campaigns are over - and the politicians no longer need your vote - if you work for a living you are on your

own to struggle the best you can. And that is the lesson that all working people union and non-union, should learn from the construction strike.

The main reason that the construction unions are in trouble today - and the main reason why tens of thousands of Vermonters earn the starvation wage of \$2.00 an hour, and why unemployment is extremely high, and why utility rates are soaring - is that the working people of the state of Vermont are not standing and fighting together against the people who own this state and this nation.

The union breaking contractors are thoroughly organized and have their friends in Montpelier working for them. The utility executives are organized and have their friends on the Public Service Board serving their needs. The bankers are organized and have the Legislative Committee working for them. But we, who make up the vast majority of the state's population, have NO organization which really represents our interests and fights for us. And that's why our real wages are declining by 4 1/2% a year while corporate profits are soaring.

If working people are going to survive the very difficult period ahead, it is clear that we have to unite and build a strong coalition that will represent all of our interests. We have got to build up the labor movement in this state so that it represents all the workers of Vermont, rather than a small minority of workers.

We have got to fight so that the utilities in this state belong to the people who use them and not to out-of-state banks and corporations whose only interest is making money. We have to demand decent housing in this state for workers, and complete medical coverage at a price that people can afford.

The fight will be long, and it will be hard. But with your involvement - and the involvement of thousands of other working Vermonters - we can and will win.

STOP UTILITY RATE INCREASES! (continued)

returning to its stockholders a 16% rate of return on their investment. Like Central Vermont, the Green Mountain Power Company is dominated by out-of-state corporate interests. This company, which is on the verge of "bankruptcy", will pay out over one million dollars in dividends during the coming year.

THE MAJOR CAUSE OF SKYROCKETING ELECTRIC RATES IN VERMONT IS THE VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, WHICH WAS FORCED UPON THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE BY THE PRIVATE POWER INDUSTRY. Eight years ago, the management of the private utilities in Vermont waged an intensive lobbying effort which succeeded in convincing the state legislature not to establish a non-profit corporation which had been designed to import cheap hydroelectricity from Canada. Albert Cree, who was then the head of Central Vermont and who later became the head of Yankee Nuclear, said that nuclear power in Vermont could produce electricity at 4 mills per kwh. - cheaper than hydroelectricity imported from Canada.

Despite the fact that a Public Service Board consultant firm explicitly warned against the dangers inherent in nuclear power - both financial and ecological - the private companies went ahead and built the plant. In the first year of its operation the Yankee Nuclear Power Plant did not produce electricity at 4 mills per kwh - as Cree had said it would - but at 30 mills per kwh, twice as much as the average cost of power that Central Vermont was purchasing from other sources.

In a contract Central Vermont signed with Vermont Yankee, Central Vermont promised to pay 35% of Yankee's operating costs, and to buy 35% of Yankee's power. Green Mountain Power made a similar arrangement. This means that Yankee can never go broke no matter how expensive it is to run (or how inefficient) because Central Vermont and the other utilities have guaranteed its cost of operation, A COST WHICH IS PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER.

The private utilities, in addition, must pay Yankee even when it is shut down and even if it does not need the Yankee power. These are the types of expenses that the utilities justify as costs of doing business when they ask for higher rates. Instead of investors paying for these financial risks and mistakes, as they should, they are still receiving their profits and the rate payers pick up the burden, and watch the cost of their electricity rise by as much as 43% in one year.

THE LIBERTY UNION BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE NO REAL SOLUTION TO THE UTILITY CRISIS UNTIL UTILITIES CEASE TO BE OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY OUT-OF-STATE BANKS AND CORPORATIONS. These people are not interested in producing the best possible electricity or telephone service at the cheapest possible rates. Rather, they are interested in providing the maximum profits to their stockholders. The Liberty Union believes that the electric companies and the telephone company should be placed under public ownership and run

on a non-profit basis. In city after city, publicly owned electric companies are providing electricity to the people at cheaper rates than the privately owned companies. Burlington, for example, has a municipally owned electric company which provides the cheapest electric rates in Vermont. The Liberty Union believes that the Public Service Board should roll back the electric rates to what they were on January 1, 1974. If the private electric companies cannot survive on that revenue, then they should be allowed to go bankrupt. The state could then buy them out cheap. We believe that the publicly owned utilities should not be run by a state bureaucracy, but should be divided up into municipal light companies and rural co-ops.

With public ownership, millions of dollars which are now paid out in dividends and interest would remain in Vermont, rather than going to out-of-state banks and corporations. Money could be borrowed at lower rates from the Rural Electrification Association in rural areas, and from the sale of state and local bonds in the urban areas.

Contrary to the statements from utility representatives and politicians, Vermonters would not be paying higher taxes under public ownership than they are at present. That taxes that utilities supposedly pay now are really paid by the consumers because they are counted by the utilities as a cost of doing business. It is a simple economic fact that if utilities were not paying out millions of dollars in profits, rates would be lower.