

A Guide to the Libertarian Party Papers, 1973-1980

Libertarian Party Papers 1973-1980
1973-1980

A Collection in The Special Collections Department 10187 through 10187-i, 10429
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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

10187 through 10187-i, 10429

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

This collection contains ca. 3500 items (12 document boxes, 1 flat oversize box, 1 rolled oversized item, and other audiovisual materials, approx. 10 cubic feet).

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

The Libertarian Party papers were given to the Library by a number of donors between 1976 and 1980. Accession numbers and donors are listed below.

10187: Libertarian Party, Washington, D.C., 1976 December 15

10187-a: Libertarian Party, Washington, D.C., 1977 January 25

10187-b: Roger Lea McBride, Charlottesville, Va., 1977 February 4

10187-c: W. Morris, Wilmington, Delaware, 1977 February 4

10187-e: Stewart L. Engel, Newport, R. I., 1977 July 7

10187-f: Southern Libertarian Messenger, S. C., 1977 July 7

10187-g: Alyn W. Hess Milwaukee Wisconsin, 1978 December 6

10187-h: Roger L. MacBride, Charlottesville, Va., 1979 June 14

10187-i: Libertarian Party, Washington, D.C., 1979 August 2

10429: Ed Clark, San Marino, California, 1980 December 12

Preferred Citation

Libertarian Party Papers, 1973-1980, Accession #10187 through 10187-i, 10429, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Biographical/Historical Information

The Libertarian Party was founded in California in 1971 to provide a political vehicle for Americans who value the supreme importance of individual liberty, both civil and economic. The Libertarians ran candidates for president and vice-president of the United States in 1972--Dr. John Hospers, director of the School of Philosophy at the University of California, and Tonie Nathan, a broadcast journalist from Eugene, Oregon. They received one electoral vote from a Republican elector in Virginia, Roger MacBride, who broke his pledge to support Richard Nixon, thereby making the Libertarian Party the only minority party to receive any electoral votes in 1972.

Roger MacBride, a Virginia businessman and co-producer of the television series "Little House on the Prairie." was selected as the party's presidential candidate in 1976 and campaigned extensively throughout the United States, particularly in the western states. The Libertarians were on the ballot in thirty-two states in 1976, more than the Independent candidate Eugene McCarthy or any other minority party. The Libertarians received 173,019 votes. MacBride's strength was centered in the west where he received five and one-half percent of the vote in Alaska and one percent or more in Arizona, Hawaii, and Idaho. His running mate was David P. Bergland, a California lawyer.

The candidate was a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. Upon graduation from law school he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study comparative and constitutional law in the Philippines. In 1960 he moved to Vermont to practice law and was elected to a number of local offices and then to the Vermont state legislature. In 1968 he moved to Virginia and began operation of a farm called "Esmont." MacBride is the author of five books on politics. His libertarian beliefs were first inspired by Rose Wilder Lane, the daughter and sole heir of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the "Little House on the Prairie" books. He served as Ms Lane's attorney and business agent for many years and when she passed away she willed him the literary rights to her mother's books.

MacBride also acquired from Ms Lane a strong belief in individual responsibility and minimal government,

two hallmarks of Libertarian philosophy. The party favors: repeal of laws against victimless crimes such as those involving pornography, drug use, and homosexual activity; the abolition of all federal police agencies; and the elimination of all government subsidies to private enterprise. In foreign and military affairs, the Libertarians advocate the removal of U. S. troops from abroad, a cut in the defense budget, and the emergence of the United States as a kind of "giant Switzerland" with no international treaty obligations. In addition, the Libertarians oppose legislation which they feel hinders individual or corporate action. They oppose gun control, civil rights laws, price controls on oil and gas, labor protection laws, federal welfare and poverty programs, forced busing, compulsory education, social security, national health care, federal land use restrictions, the fifty-five miles per hour speed limit, and motorcycle helmet laws.

Scope and Content Information

The Libertarian Party Papers consist of ca. 3500 items (11 boxes, 3.5 linear shelf feet), 1973-1980, correspondence, party papers, printed material, and memorabilia of the Libertarian Party at state and national levels. The collection is comprised primarily of material relating to the 1976 Presidential campaign of Roger Lea MacBride; papers of the Wisconsin Libertarian Party from Alyn Hess, president of the Wisconsin Gay Peoples Union; printed material of Ed Clark's 1980 presidential campaign as the Libertarian Party candidate; and state and national newsletters, as well as circular letters of the Libertarian Party.

The first series, papers of Roger MacBride, includes correspondence, Libertarian Party organization papers, campaign material, photographs, and memorabilia. Primary correspondents include Edward H. Crane III, national chairman of the Libertarian Party; Robert H. Meier, 1976 national campaign director; Linda Webb, administrative assistant and press secretary; and Roger MacBride. Principle topics of correspondence include: Secret Service protection for minor party candidates; state and local party organization; fund raising; the discriminatory nature of the Federal Elections Campaign Act; and Libertarian publications. There is also a great deal of correspondence on campaign matters including scheduling, balloting information, and thank-you letters for contributions. The Libertarian Party organization papers consist of general party literature, position papers on various domestic issues, materials on the yearly Libertarian conventions, press releases, and newsclippings.

MacBride's campaign materials include biographical material on the candidates, petitions, sample ballots, vote tallies, MacBride's appointment book for July through December of 1975, posters, invitations, menus, postcards, travel information and bumper stickers. The photographs in the collection are both color snapshots and black-and-white photographers' prints, primarily of MacBride's daughter, the different campaign sites visited by MacBride, and the 1975 Libertarian Party convention. There is also a small section of memorabilia which includes campaign buttons, medallions, balloons, luggage tags, ribbons, souvenir pens, a Libertarian straw hat, and a tee shirt. Also included are posters and broadsides from the 1976 campaign, five videotapes of MacBride speaking on various issues, a cassette tape of his acceptance speech in February 1975 for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination, and a 16 mm. movie film.

The second series--correspondence and papers of the Wisconsin Libertarian Party--is primarily the papers of Alyn Hess, president of the Wisconsin Gay Peoples Union, concerning invitations to speak before Libertarian gatherings and on Milwaukee public television on the subject of personal rights. Hess was active in the Wisconsin Libertarian Party from 1973 to 1977 and soon became one of its most articulate spokesmen on Libertarian beliefs. His correspondence contains a discussion of the problems facing third parties in the United States such as the difficulty in gaining equal news coverage, Libertarian party candidates for state and national office, and the difficulties in developing a new organization. Also included is Hess's letter to the executive director of the Wisconsin Libertarian Party in January 1978 criticizing certain aspects of the Libertarian Party. In addition to Hess's correspondence, papers regarding Wisconsin Libertarian Party conferences, party memoranda and circular letters, the Libertarian constitution, and printed party literature can be found. Also included is a file of newspaper clippings saved by Hess, 1975-1977, on Libertarian issues, many concerning Roger MacBride's 1976 presidential campaign.

The third series, material regarding Ed Clark's 1980 presidential campaign as the Libertarian candidate, is comprised solely of printed material. Included are position papers, newsletters, press releases, pamphlets, a poster, a bumper sticker, a campaign button, and the book, *A New Beginning*, by Ed Clark.

Newsletters and circular letters comprise the fourth series. Included are incomplete runs of numerous state newsletters as well as the *Libertarian News*, the national newsletter of the Libertarian Party, and the *Southern Libertarian Messenger*, published in Florence, South Carolina. Circular letters are primarily from the national headquarters of the Libertarian Party.

Organization

The collection is arranged in six series: I. Material regarding Roger Lea MacBride, II. Material regarding the Wisconsin Libertarian Party, III. Material regarding Ed Clark, IV. Newsletters and Circulars, V. Oversize Material, and, VI. Videotapes, Tape Recordings, and Films.

The first series is divided into correspondence, Libertarian Party literature, campaign material, photographs, and memorabilia. The correspondence is foldered according to topic. The folders are then arranged in chronological order. The Libertarian Party organization papers are divided into four categories: Libertarian Party literature, Libertarian Party conventions, newspaper and magazine clippings, and miscellaneous. Within these categories these materials are foldered according to topic and arranged chronologically. The campaign material is divided into speeches, press, schedules and itineraries, campaign literature, and miscellaneous. Again, material in each of these categories is foldered according to topic and arranged chronologically. The photographs are in chronological order. The memorabilia is in no specific order, with campaign buttons in one envelope and all other memorabilia in another.

The second series, material regarding the Wisconsin Libertarian Party, is arranged in chronological order with Hess's correspondence and papers preceding the Wisconsin Libertarian Party material. Clippings are placed at the end of this section.

The Ed Clark campaign material, Series III, is in chronological order within one folder.

The newsletters and circular letters comprising Series IV are open accessions as additions are constantly being added. They are organized into four main categories: general Libertarian newsletters, many of which are issued by Libertarian Party headquarters; state newsletters; the *Southern Libertarian Messenger*; and circular letters. The general party newsletters are foldered according to the title of the newsletter and arranged chronologically. The state newsletters are foldered by state and arranged in alphabetical order. The circular letters are in chronological order.

Oversize material and the videotapes, movie film, and recording are listed separately in chronological order.

Contents List

Series I: Material regarding Roger Lea MacBride

Correspondence

Roger Lea MacBride 1975 Apr - 1979 May, n.d.

Box 1

Extent 6 folders

Re Libertarian Party in Europe 1972 May - 1973 Nov

Box 1

Re Libertarian Party publications 1974 Jul - 1976, n.d.

Box 1

Re Secret Service Protection for Libertarian Party Presidential Candidates 1975 Sep - 1976 Oct

Box 1

Correspondence and Memoranda of MacBride Campaign Committee 1975 Oct - 1976 Apr

Box 1

Extent 7 folders

Correspondence and Memoranda of MacBride Campaign Committee 1976 May - Nov

Box 2

Extent 4 folders

Correspondence of Tom G. Palmer, Young Libertarian Alliance 1976 Apr - May

Box 2

Libertarian Party Literature

Booklet, "Government is a Crime" 1976

Box 2

Position Papers ca. 1975

Box 2

Young Libertarian Alliance 1976-1978

Box 2

General 1975-1978

Box 2

Advertisements, Brochures and Circulars re Conferences and Study Centers 1976-1979

Box 2

Advertisements, Order Blanks, Circulars re Publications 1976-1979

Box 2

LP Conventions

1972, 1974, 1976, 1978 Platforms of Libertarian Party 1972-1978

Box 2

Programs, Agendas re 1975 Convention 1975 Apr - Sep

Box 2

Correspondence and Papers re 1975 Convention 1975 May - Oct

Box 2

Reports re 1975 Convention 1975 Sep - Oct

Box 2

Campaign Literature for 1975 1975

Box 2

Printed Material re 1976 Convention 1976

Box 2

Printed Material re 1977 Convention and 1979 Convention 1977, 1979

Box 2

Newspaper and Magazine Clippings re Roger MacBride and the Libertarian Party 1975-1979, n.d.

Box 2

Extent 3 folders

Libertarian Party Papers: Miscellaneous 1976, n.d.

Box 2

Campaign Material

Speeches by Roger Lea MacBride 1975-1976

Box 3

Speeches by David Bergland ca. 1976

Box 3

Notes for Speeches by Roger Lea MacBride ca. 1976

Box 3

Press - News Releases of Libertarian Party 1975-1976

Box 3

Press - Radio Announcements and Schedules 1976 Jan, n.d.

Box 3

Press - Television Script re Libertarians, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1976 Apr

Box 3

Press - Correspondence and Memoranda re Television Coverage 1976 May - Oct

Box 3

Press - News Conference Event Forms 1976 Jul

Box 3

Press - Interview with Roger Lea MacBride 1976

Box 3

Schedules of Roger Lea MacBride 1975-1976

Box 3

Itineraries of RLM 1975 Nov - 1976 Aug

Box 3

Extent 4 folders

Itineraries of RLM 1976 Sep - Oct

Box 4

Itineraries, Schedules, Notes and Printed Material re RLM's Campaign, Trip to Alaska July 11 - 15 1976

Box 4

Literature of RLM 1976

Box 4

Literature of other 1976 Presidential Candidates 1976

Box 4

Literature of other Libertarian Candidates 1976-1978

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Papers re Federal Election Campaign Act 1976 Mar, Nov

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Biographical Material re Roger MacBride 1976 May - 1977 May

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Petitions, Ballots, Vote Tallies 1976 Jul - Nov

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Appointment Book of Roger MacBride 1975 Jul - Dec

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Guestbook of Libertarian Victory Celebration 1976 Nov 2

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Photos, Handbills, Broadsides 1976

Box 4

Miscellaneous - Invitations and Cards 1976

Box 5

Miscellaneous - Menus, Postcards, Travel Information ca. 1976

Box 5

Miscellaneous - Bumper Stickers ca. 1976 - 1978

Box 5

Photographs: 1975 Libertarian Party Convention 1975

Box 5

Photographs: 1976 Presidential Campaign Trail 1976

Box 5

Extent 2 folders

Photographs: Miscellaneous 1975-1978

Box 5

Campaign Buttons 1975-1979

Box 5

Other Memorabilia 1975-1979

Box 5

Series II: Material regarding the Wisconsin Libertarian Party

Correspondence of Alyn Hess 1973 - 1978

Box 6

Notes and Papers of Alyn Hess n.d.

Box 6

Wisconsin Libertarian Party: Papers re Libertarian Party Conference 1973

Box 6

Wisconsin Libertarian Party: Memoranda and Circular Letters 1973-1977

Box 6

Wisconsin Libertarian Party: Party Constitution 1975

Box 6

Milwaukee Libertarian Party: Party Memoranda and Petitions 1975-1976

Box 6

Wisconsin Libertarian Party: Party Literature 1975, n.d.

Box 6

Newspaper Clippings 1975-1977 Jan, n.d.

Box 6

Extent 5 folders

Series III: Ed Clark Presidential Campaign Material 1980

Box 6

Series IV: Newsletters and Circulars

"The Libertarian Forum" 1975

Box 7

"L.P. News" 1973-1978

Box 7

Extent 2 folders

Arizona 1975

Box 7

Arkansas 1976

Box 7

California 1975

Box 7

Colorado 1980 Oct - Nov

Box 7

Delaware 1975

Box 7

Illinois 1975

Box 7

Louisiana 1975

Box 8

Maine 1979

Box 8

Massachusetts 1975

Box 8

Minnesota 1975

Box 8

Nevada 1975

Box 8

New Jersey 1976

Box 8

New York 1974

Box 8

Ohio 1976

Box 8

Oklahoma 1976

Box 8

Oregon 1976

Box 8

Pennsylvania 1976

Box 8

Rhode Island 1976

Box 8

Tennessee 1975

Box 8

Texas 1976

Box 8

Utah 1976

Box 8

Virginia 1980

Box 8

Washington 1978

Box 8

Washington, D.C. 1976

Box 8

Wisconsin 1974 Sep - 1976 Sep

Box 8

Wisconsin, Madison 1977 Jan - 1978 Jul

Box 8

Wisconsin, Milwaukee 1975 Oct - 1976 Dec

Box 8

Canada 1976

Box 8

Miscellaneous 1976-1977

Box 8

Other Libertarian Societies 1975

Box 8

Southern Libertarian Messenger(V. 1 -) 1972 May -

Box 9 & 10

Circular Letters: Libertarian Party National Headquarters 1975

Box 11

Annotated desk calendars delineating MacBride and Bergland's campaign schedule 1976 Jan - Sep

Upsize Box M-7 (Upsize)

11 Roger MacBride campaign posters 1976

Upsize Box M-7 (Upsize)

Collage: "To Roger MacBride who lit the flame in 1976" 1976

Upsize Box M-7 (Upsize)

Birthday card for Roger MacBride [1976]

Upsize Box M-7 (Upsize)

"MacBride!" hat [1976]

Physical Location Straw hat (#10187-h) in box 12

Ed Clark campaign poster 1980

Upsize Box M-7 (Upsize)

Large Rolled Banner

Tube roll 1 (Upsize)

Physical Location Range Z 1, Cubbie 33

"MacBride for President," final revision, #4 1976 Jul 14

Extent Videotape

Physical Location MSS Processing Hall shelf #83 (#10187-h)

MacBride Speaks to America: Report #2, "Foreign Policy" 1976 Sep 19

Extent Videotape

Physical Location MSS Processing Hall shelf #83 (#10187-h)

MacBride Speaks to America: Report #3, "Civil Liberties" 1976 Sep 19

Extent Videotape

Physical Location MSS Processing Hall shelf #83 (#10187-h)

MacBride Speaks to America: Report #4, "The Economy" 1976 Sep 19

Extent Videotape

Physical Location MSS Processing Hall shelf #83 (#10187-h)

"Vote Libertarian" 1976 Oct 21

Extent Videotape

Physical Location MSS Processing Hall shelf #83 (#10187-h)

Roger MacBride's announcement of candidacy for Libertarian presidential nomination 1975 Feb 17

Extent Tape Recording, 1 cassette

Physical Location T - 779

Two political advertising spots prepared by MacBride for President Committee [1976]

Extent Tape Recording, 2 reels

Physical Location T-567 a, b

"Roger MacBride/ 1976 Libertarian Party Platform" 1976

Extent Tape Recording, 2 cassettes

Physical Location T-568 a, b

"Roger MacBride Talks to Conservatives" [1976]

Extent Tape Recording, 2 cassettes

Physical Location T-569 a, b

"MacBride for President" [1976]

Extent Tape Recording, 2 cassettes

Physical Location T-570 a, b

"The Libertarian Party Newsclip" n.d.

Extent

Movie Film, 16 mm., 1 five-inch
reel

Physical Location F-277