

BALLOT ACCESS NEWS

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OREGON LEGISLATURE CUTS NEW PARTY PETITION 60%

HOWEVER, REQUIRMENTS TO STAY ON ARE TOUGHENED

HB 2276 passed the Oregon legislature on August 2. It lowers the number of signatures for a new party to get on the ballot, from 2.5% of the number of registered voters, to 1.5% of the last gubernatorial vote.

This means a decrease in the number of signatures for 1994, from approximately 40,000, to 16,681.

However, the same bill imposes a new requirement for a party to remain qualified: it must have a number of registered members, in election years, equal to one-twentieth of 1% of the state registration total. This will probably be about 800 registrants in 1994. There are three qualified political parties in Oregon now, besides the Democratic and Republican Parties. The Libertarian and American Parties each have about 2,000 registrants, but the New Alliance Party has fewer than 800, and will have to increase its registration by August 1994.

Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts anticipates signing HB 2276 in a few days.

The bill also deregulates the Democratic and Republican Parties, and provides that only qualified parties with at least 1% of the total state registration should nominate by primary; qualified parties with fewer registrants nominate by convention. The bill thus saves the government the cost of providing a primary for the American Party, the party which was created by Ross Perot's petition drive last year. Since the party polled over 20% of the vote for president last year, under the old law, the state was obliged to provide a primary for it in 1994 and 1996.

HB 2276 had passed the Senate with no registration test for a party to remain qualified, and a petition of only 1% of the last gubernatorial vote to qualify a new party. However, the House thought those terms were too favorable to third parties, and insisted on changes. Blair Bobier of the Pacific Party was the only representative of any third party who attended the meetings of the Conference Committee, and his persuasive comments prevented the Committee from making the registration requirements any higher than one-twentieth of 1%. Without Bobier's presence, the bill would probably have ended up requiring registration of one-half of 1%.

PENNY WONT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION

Congressman Tim Penny, chief sponsor of the two Congressional bills which would help third parties and independent candidates, announced on August 6 that he will not run for re-election in 1994.

However, that same day, he telephoned Ross & Green Associates (lobbyists for the ballot access and debates bills) and promised to do his utmost to find a chief sponsor for the two bills in future sessions of Congress.

REPS, DEMS FIGHT PATRIOTS

On August 6, the Pennsylvania Republican Party filed a brief in federal court, seeking to overturn the partial ballot access victory won by the Patriot Party on June 30. And on August 10, the Pennsylvania Democratic Party filed a challenge to the Patriot Party's statewide 1993 petition. The Patriot Party is the party created by Ross Perot's 1992 vote in Pennsylvania.

Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats want the Patriot Party's candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court, Robert Surrick, to be on this November's ballot, because Surrick has good enough credentials to stand an outside chance of winning the election. The June 30 ruling in *Patriot Party v Mitchell* declared the 56,641 signature requirement unconstitutional, and substituted 29,172 signatures. The Patriot Party collected 35,000 signatures by the August 2 deadline.

The Republican Party's action is the first time any unit of the Republican Party has ever officially intervened in a ballot access lawsuit (concerning the constitutionality of a ballot access law) to try to keep a third party or independent candidate off the ballot. The Democratic Party had officially been involved in court actions in 1976 and 1980 to keep Eugene McCarthy and John Anderson off various ballots, but Republicans had not officially taken such action before.

The Republican Party's brief is confined solely to the issue of whether the party should be permitted to intervene in the case. If the U.S. District Court denies the motion, the Republican Party will almost surely then appeal that issue to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

ARKANSAS COURT NIXES TERM LIMITS

On July 29, an Arkansas Circuit Court Judge, Chris Piazza, ruled that congressional term limits violate the U.S. Constitution. He invalidated a 1992 initiative which had imposed term limits on members of Congress and on the state legislature. The judge also ruled that the initiative is invalid because it didn't contain the words "Be it enacted". *Hill & League of Women Voters v Tucker*, no. 92-6171, Circuit Court, Pulaski County.

The decision is being appealed to the Arkansas Supreme Court. Piazza's analysis of why congressional term limits violate the U.S. Constitution is only two pages long and doesn't mention *Storer v Brown*, one of the two main US Supreme Court cases on the subject. Any subscriber may receive a copy of the 8-page decision by sending \$1 to *Ballot Access News*.

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

1. California: (1) AB 2196 passed the Senate Budget Committee on August 16. It moves the primary (for all office) from June to March, in presidential election years.

California (2): AB 1173 passed the Senate Budget Committee on August 16. It lowers the number of signatures needed for a candidate to get on his or her own party's primary ballot for statewide office, from 65 signatures, to 40 signatures.

Unfortunately, it also provides that petitions in lieu of a filing fee can no longer be merged with the regular petition needed to get on the ballot, for candidates running in partisan primaries. This means that a typical candidate of a small, qualified party will no longer be able to get on the primary ballot with a single petition of 150 signatures. Instead there must be one petition signed by 150 voters (if the candidate doesn't pay the filing fee), and then another separate petition signed by 40 voters later.

The bill is even worse for independent candidates. Since 1980, independent candidates in California have not had to pay any filing fees (which sometimes are as high as \$2,500), since the normal mandatory ballot access petition also served as a petition in lieu of a filing fee. But under AB 1173, independent candidates in the future will either be required to pay filing fees, or to submit a second petition in addition to the normal petition. For statewide candidates, the normal petition is 151,015, and now a second petition of 10,000 will be needed if the fee is not paid.

The bill was written by the County Clerks Association. The Clerks hope to increase government revenue, by increasing the number of candidates who pay the filing fee rather than submitting petitions in lieu of the fee.

2. Massachusetts: HB 2782, which would make it easier for a party to remain qualified, has not made any progress since it was introduced several months ago.

3. New York: On May 12, the Assembly passed AB 7734, which lowers the number of signatures for a third party or independent presidential candidate from 15,000 signatures, to 10,000. The bill also deletes the requirement that the petition contain at least 100 signatures from half the congressional districts in the state. However, there is no companion bill in the Senate yet.

4. Ohio: On July 30, the legislature passed SB 150. It changes the primary election date from May to March, in presidential election years. The Governor has already said he will sign it.

Because the petition deadlines for new parties and for non-presidential independents are tied to the primary date, in 1996 new parties will be required to submit petitions in November of the year before the election, and non-presidential independent petitions will be due in March.

There has never before been a petition deadline for new parties which was a full year before a general election, in any state. It is extremely likely that this deadline will be overturned, if anyone challenges it in court in 1995.

CALIFORNIA PARTY SPEECH ACTIVITY

All of the briefs have now been filed in *Democratic Party of California v Superior Court*, no. 3cvC-016017 (state Court of Appeals), the case over the constitutionality of the California law which makes it illegal for a party to support, endorse or oppose a candidate for city or county office. No date has been set yet for a hearing.

Meanwhile, activists for the Committee for Party Renewal (a group which supports political parties) have made arrangements to obtain an Attorney General's Opinion as to whether the ban violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. They are also obtaining resolutions from local governmental bodies that the ban should be repealed.

DUE PROCESS LOSS

On August 5, the 11th circuit ruled that Gwen Patton, an independent candidate for U.S. Senate, was properly kept off the Alabama ballot last year, even though she showed that the Secretary of State lost some of her petition sheets after she turned them in, and then ruled that she didn't have enough valid signatures. *Childrey v Bennett*, no. 92-6895.

The decision was written by Judge William Hoeveler, a Carter appointee, and signed by Judge Stanley Birch, a Bush appointee, and Thomas Clark, a Carter appointee. They said that there was no institutional bias against Patton, and that there was no convincing evidence of any deliberate attempt to injure her.

MICHIGAN PETITION HURDLES UPHELD

On June 1, the 6th circuit upheld certain restrictive Michigan procedures for initiative petitions, including:

1. If anyone signs the petition twice, neither signature counts;
2. If any mandated language appears in smaller type size than 8 point, all the signatures on the sheet with the smaller type are invalid;
3. Signatures must be dated, and if anyone shows only the month and day, but not the year, the signature is invalid.

Taxpayers United for Assessment Cuts v Austin, 994 F 2d 291. The Court used the rational basis test, since the procedures aren't discriminatory.

ARKANSAS RULING

On May 13, the Arkansas Attorney General issued a ruling, confirming that Ross Perot's vote created a new party in the state. The Opinion implies that the party is free to change its name. Now, it is the Independent Party. This is the first third party recognized in Arkansas since 1970.

However, it is possible there may be a fourth party recognized in the state later this year. The Southern National Party launched a petition drive last month, and says it expects to successfully complete it. 20,890 signatures are required. The Southern National Party has never been on the ballot of any state. It stands for secession of the southern states.

OTHER LAWSUIT NEWS

1. The government is appealing the Libertarian Party's Arizona victory on the question of how many signatures a qualified party needs to place candidates on its own primary ballot. *Smalley v Betrick*, no. 2ca-cv-93-0161, State Court of Appeals, Pima County.

2. All the briefs have now been filed in *COFOE v McEldeberry*, no. 93-6151, 10th circuit. This is the case over whether the U.S. Constitution requires Oklahoma to permit write-in votes for president at the general election. Oklahoma requires 41,711 signatures to place a third party or independent presidential candidate on the ballot. Even though the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Hawaii's write-in ban last year, in that case the plaintiff-voter wanted to cast a write-in vote for state legislature, but anyone can run for the state legislature in Hawaii by filing 15 signatures.

3. The Federal Election Commission has decided to appeal its loss in *LaRouche v FEC* to the U.S. Supreme Court. This is the case in which the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the FEC to pay LaRouche his 1992 primary season matching funds. The FEC has also asked for a stay, to avoid having to pay the money now.

4. The Fifth Circuit held a hearing in *Schirmir v Edwards*, no. 92-3900, on August 5. This is the case over whether Louisiana may ban political signs on election day within 500 feet of a polling place. The judges seemed inclined to hold the law unconstitutional, because the distance is so great. A decision is expected in a few months.

HR 1755 CO-SPONSORS LISTED

HR 1755 is the bill by Congressman Timothy Penny to set up lenient federal procedures for third party and independent candidates to qualify for the ballot (for federal office only). It is now co-sponsored by these members (an asterisk means a new co-sponsor since the last issue):

1. *Tom Andrews (D-Maine)
2. Lucien Blackwell (D-Pennsylvania)
3. John Conyers (D-Michigan)
4. Floyd Flake (D-New York)
5. Jim Greenwood (R-Pennsylvania)
6. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisconsin)
7. Alcee Hastings (D-Florida)
8. Bob Inglis (R-South Carolina)
9. Andy Jacobs (D-Indiana)
10. *Martin Meehan (D-Mass.)
11. Kweisi Mfume (D-Maryland)
12. Major Owens (D-New York)
13. Jim Slattery (D-Kansas)
14. Ed Towns (D-New York)
15. Melvin Watt (D-North Carolina)

CONGRESS TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE

The House of Representatives has published the transcript of the hearings on the Penny & Markey debates bills, held June 17. It is available, free, from the Elections Subcommittee, 802 House Annex 1, Washington DC 20515, (202) 226-7616. It is 306 pages.

HR 1753 CO-SPONSORS LISTED

HR 1753, the "Democracy in Debates" bill, is now co-sponsored by these members of the House:

1. Lucien Blackwell (D-Pennsylvania)
2. John Conyers (D-Michigan)
3. Floyd Flake (D-New York)
4. Alcee Hastings (D-Florida)
5. Earl Hilliard (D-Alabama)
6. Andy Jacobs (D-Indiana)
7. Harry Johnston (D-Florida)
8. *Martin Meehan (D-Mass.)
9. Kweisi Mfume (D-Maryland)
10. Major Owens (D-New York)
11. Jim Slattery (D-Kansas)
12. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)
13. Ed Towns (D-New York)

SPECIAL ELECTIONS

1. California: on July 27, a special election was held for Assembly in the 5th district. The results: Republican 48.5%, Democratic 39.1%, Libertarian 6.5%, independent 5.9%.

2. Wisconsin: On June 29, a special election was held for Assembly in the 14th district. The results: Republican 57.2%, Democratic 41.7%, Libertarian 1.1%.

CALIFORNIA PARTIES MAY COOPERATE

There are six qualified parties in California. Each party must poll at least 2% of the statewide vote in 1994, to preserve its place on the ballot (unless it has registration of 1% of the 1994 vote, probably 100,000 registrants).

The Green Party and the Peace & Freedom Party are working on a tentative deal, not to run candidates against each other, for the six minor statewide offices. The Green Party would run candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer; PFP would run for Controller, Insurance Commissioner, and Attorney General. Activists for both parties believe that this would guarantee that each party would poll at least 2% for at least one statewide race.

However, under state law, parties have no ability to keep any member from running in the party's own primary and winning its nomination, even if the party leadership and the vast majority of its members desire not to nominate a candidate.

Last year, the Green Party won a lawsuit that a party has a First Amendment right to "close off" its own primary and prevent any member from running for a particular office. The party also won the right to have a binding "None of the above" in its own primary. The Secretary of State is appealing. *Green Party v Eu*, no. 3-cv-c-013273. The briefs have been filed, but no hearing date has been set.

If the Green Party wins again in the State Court of Appeals, the Peace & Freedom Party could pass a similar bylaw, and the Green Party could revive its own bylaw.

REVIEW: *POLITICS AT THE PERIPHERY*

Dr. J. David Gillespie, professor of political science at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, has just released his *Politics at the Periphery: Third Parties in Two-Party America*. The book is available in paperback from the publisher, the University of South Carolina Press, tel. (800) 768-2500, for \$18.95. 334 pages.

The author researched the book for fifteen years before he wrote it. The research paid off, because the book is far more accurate and detailed than most political science books about U.S. third parties. It is supportive of the voting rights of third party adherents, stating in the preface "Structural barriers placed on third-party participation in American politics have been more forbidding and debilitating than behooves the world's leading democratic nation."

The appendices include current addresses of third U.S. political parties, all third party and independent presidential candidates who have ever received at least 1% of the vote, all third party members of Congress throughout the nation's history (by state and year), and all third party and independent Governors and their share of the vote.

The text divides third parties into transient parties of the 19th century, transient parties of the 20th century, doctrinal parties, and parties organized in only a single state. There is a chapter on personalities of third party leaders, and one on the relationship between Blacks and third parties, and women and third parties.

A few factual errors slipped into the book, e.g., there are four Libertarians in the New Hampshire legislature, not three; the Green Party elected the Mayor of Cordova, Alaska, not the Mayor of Cordova, Arkansas.

INDIANA PETITION WOES

On May 12, Indiana House Bill 1708 was signed into law. It made dozens of changes in the election law, including a slight change in the wording of ballot access petitions for third parties and independent candidates.

Unfortunately, the Libertarian and New Alliance Parties had already been circulating their 1994 petitions months before this change was made. Now they are faced with the problem that tens of thousands of signatures have been collected on forms which are no longer in precise conformity with the law.

However, both parties are cautiously optimistic that the Indiana State Board of Elections will recognize the validity of the signatures already collected on the old forms. The Board has been friendly to third party and independent candidates in recent years. Furthermore, due process, and elementary standards of fairness, demand that the state not change the rules in the middle of a petition drive and then fail to accept the signatures already collected.

The identical issue arose in Kentucky last year, and the Kentucky State Board of Elections finally did agree to accept petitions collected on the earlier, obsolete forms.

PARTIES WIN RIGHT TO CHANGE NAME

Can a qualified political party change its name, without having to re-qualify all over again? Few states' election codes answer this question. Consequently, when the issue comes up, state officials must decide this question with little guidance.

This year, state officials in Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon and Pennsylvania all answered "Yes". During the 1970's and 1980's, Alabama, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota and New Mexico also said "Yes"; but South Carolina said "No".

FINAL FEC ELECTION RETURNS

The Federal Election Commission has published *Federal Elections '92*. It is available free. Order from the FEC, 999 E St., NW, Washington DC 20463, or call the FEC Public Records office at (800) 424-9530.

The book shows totals for all candidates for federal office at the November 1992 election. The authors went to extraordinary trouble to track down all known write-ins for president, by state. For Delaware, Rhode Island and Washington, every write-in for president is listed, whether the vote was for a declared write-in candidate or not.

Presidential candidates who were on the ballot in at least two states, received these national totals, according to the book: Clinton 44,909,889; Bush 39,104,545; Perot 19,742,267; Marrou 291,628; Gritz 107,002; Fulani 73,708; Phillips 43,398; Hagelin 39,163; Daniels 27,969; LaRouche 26,334; Warren 23,091; Herer 3,875; Brisben 3,064; Halyard 3,050; Yiamouyiannis 2,199; Dodge 961.

Even these figures aren't the last word. Despite the hard work done by the authors, write-ins for the candidates above from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wyoming are omitted (except that the Gritz write-ins from West Virginia and Wyoming are included), even though they were available from official sources. *America Votes 1992*, a comprehensive book of election returns published by Congressional Quarterly, will be out in October and it will contain these additional write-ins.

The book also prints vote totals for candidates in each presidential primary, but the New Hampshire and Nebraska Libertarian presidential primaries are accidentally omitted.

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1994 PETITIONING

STATE	REQUIREMENTS		SIGNATURES COLLECTED				DEADLINES	
	FULL PARTY	CAND.	LIBT	CENTER	GREEN	NEW AL	PARTY	CAND.
Alabama	12,157	12,157	700	0	0	0	Sep 9	Sep 9
Alaska	no procedure	2,586	0	0	already on	0	-	Aug 22
Ariz. (est)	(reg) 13,500	(es) 7,000	*5,700	0	*2,100	*275	May 21	Jun 30
Arkansas	20,890	10,000	0	already on	0	0	Jan 4	May 1
California	(reg) 78,992	151,015	already on	100	already on	0	Jan 4	Aug 12
Colorado	no procedure	1,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 2
Connecticut	no procedure	15,008	can't start	already on	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 12
Delaware	(reg.) 150	(es) 3,000	already on	already on	0	already on	Aug 20	Jul 15
D.C.	no procedure	(es) 2,600	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 31
Florida	196,255	196,255	can't start	(reg.) *500	can't start	can't start	Jul 19	Jul 19
Georgia	31,771	31,771	already on	0	0	0	Jul 12	Jul 12
Hawaii	4,645	unpredictable	already on	0	already on	0	Apr 20	Jul 19
Idaho	9,643	1,000	already on	0	350	0	Aug 31	Jun 24
Illinois	no procedure	25,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 8
Indiana	no procedure	29,909	*23,000	0	0	*23,700	-	Jul 15
Iowa	no procedure	1,500	0	0	0	0	-	Aug 19
Kansas	15,661	5,000	already on	500	0	0	Apr 11	Aug 2
Kentucky	no procedure	5,000	0	0	0	0	-	Sep 1
Louisiana	(reg) 110,000	0	325	already on	38	0	Jun 30	Jul 29
Maine	26,139	4,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	Dec 15	Jun 7
Maryland	(es) 76,000	(es) 66,000	1,500	6,000	0	0	Aug 1	Aug 1
Massachsts.	(reg) 33,000	10,000	can't start	already on	can't start	can't start	Jul 1	Aug 2
Michigan	25,646	25,646	*7,000	0	0	0	Jul 21	Jul 21
Minnesota	117,790	2,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	May 1	Jul 19
Mississippi	just be org.	1,000	already on	0	0	0	Apr 1	Apr 8
Missouri	10,000	10,000	already on	0	0	0	Aug 1	Aug 1
Montana	9,473	9,473	already on	0	0	0	Mar 17	Jun 6
Nebraska	5,834	2,000	0	0	0	0	Aug 1	Aug 30
Nevada	4,920	5,134	already on	0	1,200	0	Jul 7	Jul 7
New Hamp.	no procedure	3,000	already on	0	0	0	-	Aug 10
New Jersey	no procedure	800	0	0	0	0	-	Apr 14
New Mexico	2,850	17,100	*1,000	0	already on	0	Jul 12	Jul 12
New York	no procedure	15,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 23
North Carolina	51,904	(es) 70,000	lawsuit	0	0	6,000	Jul 14	Jun 24
North Dakota	7,000	1,000	0	0	0	0	Apr 15	Sep 9
Ohio	49,399	5,000	0	0	0	0	Jan 6	May 3
Oklahoma	69,518	0	0	0	0	0	May 31	Jul 13
Oregon	*16,681	(att.) 1,000	already on	already on	15,000	already on	Aug 30	Aug 30
Penn.	no procedure	(es) 28,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Aug 1
Rhode Isl.	no procedure	1,000	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Jul 21
South Carolina	10,000	10,000	already on	0	0	already on	May 8	Aug 1
South Dakota	6,419	2,568	already on	0	0	0	Apr 5	Aug 2
Tennessee	19,759	25	0	0	1,000	0	May 1	May 19
Texas	38,900	38,900	already on	can't start	can't start	can't start	May 22	May 12
Utah	500	300	already on	already on	0	0	Mar 15	Mar 17
Vermont	just be org.	1,000	already on	0	0	already on	Sep 22	Sep 22
Virginia	no procedure	(es) 15,500	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Jun 14
Washington	no procedure	unpredictable	can't start	can't start	can't start	can't start	-	Jul 23
West Va.	no procedure	4,044	0	0	0	0	-	May 9
Wisconsin	10,000	2,000	already on	can't start	can't start	can't start	Jun 1	Jul 12
Wyoming	8,000	9,849	0	0	0	0	May 1	Aug 29

LIBT = Libertarian; NEW AL = New Alliance; CENTER = Patriot, Independence or similar party. Other qual. national parties: Natural Law in Nev, N.M. & Vt; U.S. Taxpayers in Cal., Miss., Nev, N.M. & S.C; Wkrs. World in Mich.; and Amer. in Utah. "FULL PARTY REQ." means a procedure by which a new party can qualify before it nominates its candidates; not every state has such a procedure. *Populist Party has 3,500 signatures in Ga. Grassroots Party has 200 signatures in Az. * means entry has changed since last issue. The Southern National Party has an unknown number of signatures in Arkansas.

FALL 1993 ELECTIONS

Thousands of cities and towns hold elections in the fall of 1993. In addition, statewide partisan elections are being held in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Here is a list of the biggest fall 1993 elections, and the third parties participating in them (third parties in alphabetical order):

New Jersey state and county elections: Communist, Libertarian, New, Populist, Socialist Workers

Virginia state and county elections: Libertarian, New Alliance

Pennsylvania statewide and county elections: Libertarian, Patriot

New York city election: Conservative, Liberal, Libertarian, New, New Alliance, Right to Life, Socialist Workers, Workers League

Detroit city election: Socialist Workers, Workers League

Minneapolis city election: Independence, Socialist Workers

Boston city election: Socialist Workers

The 21st Century Party, formed by the National Organization for Women, gets much publicity, but it has not yet nominated a candidate for any public office.

SKILLED BALLOT ACCESS LOBBYISTS

Last month's *B.A.N.* carried news that ballot access laws in two of the nation's toughest states, Missouri and Nevada, had been completely revamped and improved.

Neither improvement would have been made, without two extraordinary lobbyists who worked for the bills, Ken Bush of Missouri and Tamara Clark of Nevada. Each one is willing to visit other states, to help activists with similar lobbying. Bush is at 11 N. Tealbrook, St. Louis Mo 63141, (314) 994-0000; Clark is at 6897 E. Mesquite, Las Vegas Nv 89110, (702) 438-7633.

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PROFESSIONAL'S 1994 PREDICTION

David Beiler, writing in the August 1993 issue of *Campaigns & Elections* magazine, suggests there is a good possibility that there will be even more statewide third party and independent victories in 1994 than there were 1990. The subtitle of this portion of his article is "Third Party H-Bomb".

Among the possibilities he mentions are the re-election of the two third party governors elected in 1990 (Walter Hickel of the Alaska Independence Party and Lowell Weicker of A Connecticut Party), and the possible U.S. Senate independent candidacies of Douglas Wilder (now Democratic Governor of Virginia) and Rudy Perpich (former Democratic Governor of Minnesota).

He also discusses the possibility that Vermont Independent Congressman Bernie Sanders may run for the U.S. Senate, again as an independent. Finally, he mentions the candidacy of Jack Gargan, Independence Party candidate for Governor of Florida, and the possible independent candidacy of Bill Frederick (formerly Mayor of Orlando) for the same job.

In 1990, there were three victories for statewide office by third party or independent candidates, the most since 1936.

ANTI-IMMIGRATION PARTY FORMED

On June 12, the America First Party was launched at a national meeting held in Clemmons, North Carolina. The party pledges to stop immigration, forced school integration, and affirmative action. Its symbol is the Celtic Cross.

The party's national secretary is Dr. Edward R. Fields, who headed the National States Rights Party from 1959 until it ceased to exist in the 1970's. The NSRP never gained a place on the ballot of more than four states in any single election. Fields has published an openly racist newspaper since 1959, *The Truth At Last* (formerly named *The Thunderbolt*).

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