

York Dispatch (Penn.)

Sept. 4, 1989

Progreso!!

Like it or not, political quiz proves the Libertarian label fits

THE MESSAGE was clear: "May the fleas of ten thousand dogs rest within your beard." Signed: WKII.

WKII happens to be Walt Karwicky, prolific letter-to-the-editor writer and well known in York County as a member of the Libertarian Party.

I wasn't immediately certain why he deemed my beard adequate lodging for a large family of fleas, but I assumed he was taking exception to one of my columns, probably one published the day before about "slob smokers."

But just to make certain, I called him on the telephone. A man answered, but it wasn't Karwicky. Walt would be back at 6 p.m., the man said.

So while I passed the time until 6 p.m., I glanced through the piece of Libertarian Party propaganda Karwicky had used as a memo pad for the above mentioned curse.

It was mostly a piece of litera-

ture that served to promote the Libertarian Party's "Proclaim Liberty Convention," which was held in Philadelphia this past Thursday through yesterday.

Anyway, what caught my attention was the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," which occupied a spot next to the registration form. Basically it was a 10-question test to determine one's political identity. The idea, of course, was to figure out if a person is Libertarian, Centrist, Authoritarian, Liberal or Conservative by one's responses to 10 questions.

Not surprisingly, the test didn't say anything about Republicans or Democrats.

What the heck, I figured, I'll take the test.

To make a long story short, I circled "yes" when I agreed that military service should be voluntary, that government should not own or control TV or the press and that all regulations on sex by consenting adults should be re-



LARRY HICKS

pealed. At 20 points for each "yes," plus 10 more points for a "maybe" on repealing drug laws because they do more harm than good, I tallied 70 points on Part 1 of the test.

Part 2 dealt with economic issues. Again three more "yes" votes for believing that farmers should farm without quotas or subsidies, that people are better off with free trade than with tariffs and that Europeans and Japanese should pay for their own

defense. I was wishy-washy on the subject of ending our system of taxation, so I took another "maybe" there. Once again, 70 total points.

Then with the help of a little graph, I plotted my political course. Seventy points on the left and 70 points on the right, continue both lines until they meet and

Good grief! I am a Libertarian, or should be, according to this test. "It cannot be," I said out loud. So I double-checked all the questions and answers, hoping for a miracle.

But nothing changed.

Walt Karwicky and Larry Hicks. Birds of a feather.

It was inescapable. In black and white. Ten questions and I answered six in the affirmative. There were two maybes, that's true. But there were only two "no" responses. I did not agree that people should be allowed to immigrate and emigrate freely and I did not think minimum

wage laws should be eliminated.

I confess I have not always been a "good" Republican, since I have voted often for certain candidates of the Democratic Party. But that occasional mutiny should not be held against me. I did not deserve this fate.

Larry Hicks, a Libertarian. No way.

But every cloud has a silver lining, I guess. I noticed a list of names at the bottom of the page. Margaret Thatcher is held up as a shining example of a Conservative and Franklin D. Roosevelt the perfect Liberal. Stalin and Hitler were Authoritarians.

And there it was. The best examples of Libertarians were Thomas Jefferson and Henry David Thoreau.

Ah, yes. For some reason, I don't mind being compared to Jefferson and Thoreau. I could do worse.

At least they never said they wanted to turn my beard into a flea-bag flophouse.