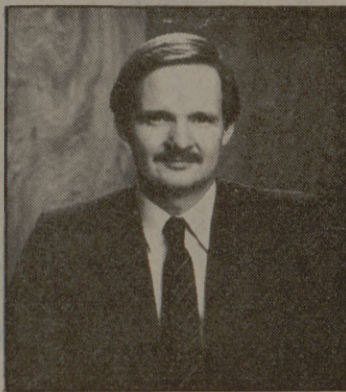


Libertarian Gibson talks of function of government

by Robert McGlohon



Martin Gibson

Martin Gibson, Libertarian candidate for the 6th Congressional District, isn't selling his political experience — but his lack of it. He doesn't want voters to know what he's for — but what he's against.

Gibson explained what he's against by paraphrasing Thomas Jefferson: "The government that governs best, governs least."

He said that government, when operating within its proper boundaries, is only "to protect against the initiation of force or fraud and to provide a forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes."

Beyond that, he said, "government has no place." Gibson's ideal government has an internal police force, a volunteer army, a court system — and nothing else.

Among the functions of government he would eliminate are welfare, social security and public education. And in each case, Gibson said, the elimination of those programs would benefit the groups they're designed to protect — not hurt them.

Still, he said, care must be taken in their elimination.

"Once you've gotten a cancer growth within the system — like

government has now — to cut the system immediately brings so much chaos and hardship that it couldn't be done. But you start down that road and you start very quickly. The longer irrational government intervention exists, the more of a tendency there is to expand it," he said.

And because he has virtually no political experience, Gibson said he would be able to operate on that cancer.

Power corrupts and twists the thinking of the politically experienced, he said, causing arrogance and an indifference to voter opinion.

Gibson said he believes he can withstand the temptations of power, "because I haven't been contaminated."

Two examples of the corrupting effects of power, he said, are Democrat Dan Kubiak and former Democrat Phil Gramm — the two leading candidates in Feb. 12 special election.

He said Kubiak wouldn't be able to withstand the political pressures of the Democratic leadership even if he wanted to, which he probably doesn't.

"When (House speaker) Tip O'Neill says 'Jump,' (Kubiak) will say 'How high?'" Gibson said.

Gramm, through his voting record, Gibson said, already has shown his indifference to voter opinion.

Gibson — like Gramm and John Henry Faulk, another of his opponents — has compared his ideals to those stated by Thomas Jefferson. However, he said both Gramm and Faulk are mistaken in their comparisons.

"Gramm's failing in the Jeffersonian tradition is that he still wants to inflict government into the lives of private individuals," Gibson said.

And Faulk, by endorsing most of the proposals of the Democratic leadership, makes the same mistake, he said.

"Plus, neither one of them will be able to do what they said in the 6th District when they get to Congress — Gramm by lack of will and Faulk by a lack of ability."

Gramm, a former Democrat, quit the party in January because of conflicts with Democratic Party leaders. Gibson warns that Gramm has run out of parties.

"With his (Gramm's) stand on huge tax increases and deficit spending," Gibson said, "I don't think the Libertarians would want him."

Of course, Gramm probably wouldn't want the Libertarians either. Both liberals and conservatives have major conflicts with Libertarian ideals, Gibson said.

"For instance, our stand (against) gun control drives liberals crazy," he said. "Then we turn around and drive the conservatives crazy by saying we ought not to have a draft."

His stands on those issues are consistent with Libertarian ideals, Gibson said, since the driving force behind the the

Libertarian Party is individual liberty. And, he said, both gun control and the draft intrude upon those liberties.

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Water problem discussed at council

by Kelley Smith

In a special meeting Wednesday, the College Station City Council discussed the possibility of attaining property easements in areas of water drainage so the city can help alleviate drainage problems.

Mark Allen, director of public service for College Station, discussed proposed changes in city ordinances that he said would help define the responsibility of drainage maintenance for the private sector and the city.

In creek areas, the city must have enough easements to be able to clear the area to improve drainage, Allen said.

But City Manager North Bardell said there is a conflict of interest involved — the city needs to cut down trees, and property owners do not want their trees cut down.

"The problem is not time or money, but commitment," Bardell said. "It's like sidewalks. Everybody wants one until it's on their property, then they want it on the other side of the street. It's the same with the creeks. Everyone thinks they need help until we cut down trees."

When trees must be cut down to clear an area, willows and bushes rather than larger trees are usually taken, Bardell said. Mayor Gary Halter said that

currently the city does not clear the creek areas regularly, but with enough easements, the city could service the creeks regularly.

In other business, the Capital Improvements Program for 1984-88 was outlined. The program, which started two years ago, is funded by bonds and updated yearly.

Proposed improvements in road conditions, electric service, sewage, drainage, water service, parks and general government programs were discussed and their projected costs were given.

Some of the programs have already begun and have been funded or partially funded.

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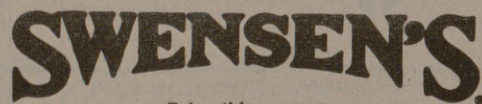
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