

CLARK PRESIDENT

Ed Clark for President Committee
2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 333-8263

May 19, 1980

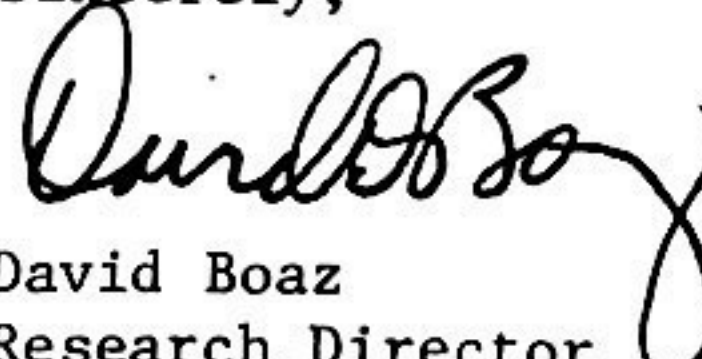
Ray Cunningham,
Chairman
Jule R. Herbert Jr.,
Treasurer
Chris Hocker,
National Coordinator
Edward H. Crane III,
Communications Director
Kristina Herbert,
Headquarters Manager

Mr. James E. Bie
4090 Fanuel Street # 2B
San Diego, CA 92109

Dear Mr. Bie:

Attached are Libertarian presidential candidate Ed Clark's answers to your questionnaire along with a basic fact sheet. I hope they will be satisfactory for your purposes. If you need any further information, please contact me. We look forward to seeing a copy of your article.

Sincerely,



David Boaz
Research Director

P. S. Thanks a lot for including us.

Enclosure

DB/kh

JAMES BIE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Like any other commodity, energy is subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand, and as with any other commodity, the attempts of government to ignore these economic realities will only guarantee shortages and a continuation of the present energy crisis. At present, government both regulates and subsidizes the oil companies and other forms of energy, and it should do neither. So long as oil prices are kept at artificial levels, substitute energy sources such as solar, wind, and synthetic fuels have no chance to develop. I favor decontrol of all energy production, and I oppose taxpayer subsidies to any form of energy. I would allow the forces of supply and demand, operating in a competitive marketplace, to point us in the right direction as to future energy sources.

2. Inflation is caused by the printing of worthless paper money by the Treasury and by the Federal Reserve Board's manipulation of money and credit through our government-cartelized banking system. I would pursue a three-point program which would stop inflation promptly: I would balance the federal budget at a lower level than presently. I would establish a sound backing for United States currency and seek to have our currency freely convertible into gold. And I would end the creation of money by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury. No other program will stop inflation.

3. Productivity means producing goods and services that consumers want. So there is no way for government planning to improve productivity. I would stop inflation, slash taxes, and deregulate the economy. Then businesses would be able to respond to consumer preferences and changing conditions. It seems likely that the American economy needs more capital formation; high taxes and inflation certainly reduce the capital available. But only consumers expressing their desires in a free market can tell us definitely whether the economy needs more investment.

4. "Cost-benefit" analyses ignore the question of who benefits at whose cost. It is wrong for government to impose costs on some citizens to benefit others. All government regulations impose costs on businesses and consumers which should be borne by the specific beneficiaries. Regulation is always less efficient than the functioning of a free, competitive market. Problems such as fraud can better be dealt with through a court system which recognizes private property rights than through wasteful, costly, and oppressive bureaucracy. I would work to deregulate every sector of our economy.

5. Present government-imposed environmental standards are arbitrary, haphazard, inconsistent, and political. Agencies are criticized by environmentalists for being slow to respond to problems, and by businesses for imposing costly and cumbersome regulations -- and both complaints have much validity. I favor a totally different system whereby individuals and groups can file suit against polluters, prove damages, win compensation, and enjoin polluters from continuing to pollute; such a system is based on strict enforcement of property rights. At present, government has the sole power to determine the acceptable level of pollution. This fails to protect consumers, who have no recourse if the level is set too low, and it

question 5, continued

fails to protect industry, which is often forced to comply with burdensome regulations. Economic growth and environmental protection will both be better protected by a system of private legal action to uphold property rights than by government standards.

6. In the 1980's America must give up its bipartisan policy of interventionism and meddling around the world. Our country should stand as a beacon of liberty -- a free, prosperous, and pluralistic society and a haven for refugees from tyranny. But the world is far too complicated for any national to attempt to dominate it. We must not attempt to be the world's policeman any more. We must stay out of the domestic affairs of other nations. Such a policy has cost us too much in money, lives, and respect of people around the world. The primary ideal of the American people -- though unfortunately not of our government -- is freedom. That ideal will best prevail when we promote it by example, not by force.

7. The U.S. military budget for 1981 is \$146 billion, up \$49 billion since President Carter entered office. The greatest threat to American national security is the threat of nuclear war, and our spiraling military spending is increasing that threat. In addition, 60% of the American defense budget goes to defend other countries. I would begin reducing that part of the budget so that American taxpayers don't have to pay for the defense of other nations. I would seek real mutual arms reductions with the Soviet Union. And I would begin to reduce America's overseas military commitments. In a changing and dangerous world, Americans will be safer if our government pursues a defense policy based on peace, non-interventionism, and mutual arms reduction.

8. The conflicts between Presidents and Congress are a natural consequence of the increasing power of government in our society. Different interest groups flock to Washington to demand their own favors, subsidies, and protection. Their differing demands lead to conflicts between their allies in Congress and the White House. The real loser in this process is the taxpayer, as the special interests fight over who get to pick his pocket. My election will be a powerful signal to Congress that the American people want an end to this system, and that they want a new direction in politics -- toward dramatically lower taxes, more personal freedom, and an end to U.S. meddling around the world. I will not be afraid to use the veto when necessary, and I will seek the support of the American people in convincing Congress of the need for these policies.

9. I would reduce the role of the federal government in our society as much and as quickly as possible. Specifically, I will dramatically lower taxes, stop inflation, deregulate the economy, repeal laws that interfere with our civil liberties and personal freedoms, and restore the right of individuals to make their own decisions. Almost all our domestic problems stem from the introduction of organized coercion -- government -- into our peaceful, voluntary affairs. I will seek to reduce the role of government. I do not ask the American people to sacrifice; I ask them only to join me in standing up for our liberties. The sacrifices will be made by the politicians, bureaucrats, and special interests who have been living off the rest of us for too long. I look forward to a free, prosperous, and pluralistic society in which we won't regulate each other's lifestyles or each other's businesses, and in which we'll all be free to live our own lives without interference.

14 May 1980

Mr. Ed Clark
Libertarian Party
2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

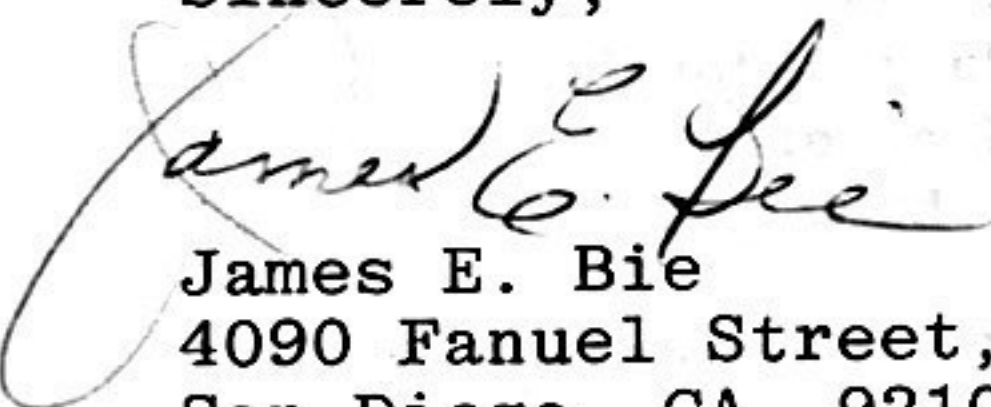
Dear Mr. Clark:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote to the party headquarters San Francisco. I have not heard from them yet, and decided to send this request to you in Washington.

The publication I am using to get the statements from the other candidates did not include the views of the Libertarian candidate. But since I am registered as a Libertarian, I want to include your opinions on these policy questions.

I'm not sure who will publish it, but I feel confident that someone will. I'll appreciate your cooperation. I think this can do a lot of good for the voters and for the Libertarian philosophy.

Sincerely,



James E. Bie
4090 Fanuel Street, #2B
San Diego, CA 92109

4 May 1980

Libertarian Party of California
1620 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Gentlemen:

I am writing a magazine article/quiz about the positions of the presidential candidates. I have short statements on public policy questions from 10 republican and democratic candidates -- several of whom have now been eliminated from the race.

I propose to develop a multiple-choice quiz, which allows the reader to choose from among the statements of each candidate without knowing to which candidate or party the statement can be attributed. This means the reader must decide without prejudice which statement most nearly represents his own feelings on topics of national importance.

In all probability, many people who hold very strong opinions about a certain person or party will be surprised to find that some unexpected candidate actually voices the reader's own beliefs on many questions.

I would like to include the Libertarian Party presidential candidate in this quiz. Attached are the questions. I would like as brief an answer as possible; in no case more than 200 words.

Please refer this letter to your candidate. Or send me his name and address so I can contact him.

Sincerely,

James E. Bie
4090 Fanuel Street, #2B
San Diego, CA 92109

Preface

The Candidates 1980: Where They Stand represents a major effort by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research to contribute to educated and informed public discourse on the issues facing the American people not only in the 1980 presidential campaign but throughout the 1980s. The book is an outgrowth of AEI's continuing research project in social and political processes.

We invited all major candidates for president, of both parties, to provide us with their views on nine issues that we consider of primary importance. We informed each of the candidates that we would publish their responses, unedited, in a book which we would then make available to the public. Each candidate was requested to limit his consideration of each issue to approximately two hundred words.

All of the invited candidates agreed to participate and sent us their responses.

The nine issues we asked the candidates to address emerged from a series of conferences held during AEI's annual Public Policy Week in mid-December 1979, in which we asked key policy makers and scholars to assess the challenges of the 1980s and to identify key issues.

The essays in this book will not only put the candidates on record on a wide variety of issues but will also assist AEI and the public in exploring various options available for major public policy problems. The questions we asked each candidate to address were:

How would you solve our nation's energy problems? Specifically, what would be the key elements of your national energy policy?

Most polls show that Americans consider inflation to be the number one domestic problem. How would you rid the economy of inflation?

The productivity growth rate of the American economy declined drastically in the 1970s. During 1979 it was negative. What steps would you take to restore productivity growth to the American economy? Do you believe we need to stimulate capital formation to aid in this? How would you do this?

Government regulation provides benefits, but it also imposes costs. What changes in the regulatory process, if any, would you propose?

In the last several years, there has been an increased concern with

environmental protection. How would you achieve a balance between the need for economic growth and protection of the environment?

What should the United States stand for in world affairs in the 1980s? Concretely how would you propose that American ideals and interests prevail?

What would be the elements of your defense policy? How would you ensure the success of your vision of America's future in a changing and troubled world?

In recent years presidents of both parties have had great difficulty in getting Congress to adopt the programs they have recommended. What has caused this difficulty, and how would you go about overcoming it?

What policies or programs will you pursue that best reflect your sense of domestic priorities for the 1980s and beyond? What sacrifices will the American people be asked to make?

This volume exemplifies what is at the core of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research—that competition of ideas is fundamental to a free society. That competition of ideas we promote through the innovative research of our scholars, and through conferences and seminars and other forums in which varying viewpoints are brought together to meet the test of comparison. A companion principle is that public policy should be the policy of the public—that is, that equally strong as our dedication to competition in the market place of ideas is a similar commitment to the dissemination of ideas.

We have attempted to achieve part of this objective through the AEI associates program, a means of informing individuals and groups about innovative research and acquainting them with the various points of view on public policy issues. This program has several facets: an associates program for academia, a special seminar for chief executive officers, a series of management seminars for decision makers, a general associates program for the interested citizen.

Our goal with this volume is the same as with all activities of the institute: to enrich the debate on public policy and to disseminate varying viewpoints so that the full range of relevant options is explored and public policy is truly formed through the competition of ideas.

WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.
President, American Enterprise Institute