



The Activist News

Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government
The Commonwealth Activist Network

Post Office Box 408 □ Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

(617) 248-0022 □ E-Mail: cltg@cltg.org

World Wide Website: <http://cltg.org>



The Massachusetts Taxpayer Activist's CLT&G Newsletter

September 1998

CLT&G Members Say "Stay the Course!" Are Joined by 600 New Members

The Membership Has Spoken

By Chip Ford

In May it looked dark for the future of CLT&G. The cost of months of court battles against the teachers union had taken its toll. CLT&G had barely enough funds to last through July. After over two decades of fighting for the taxpayers, the end was in sight.

We sent out notice to our members. One member was WRKO's Howie Carr and, the next thing we knew, Barbara was on his program explaining the situation. The next day it was a major news story in all the media.

Barbara and I had, at the last minute, decided to attend the 6th World Taxpayer Conference. (Earlier, we'd accepted that it would be impossible as we'd be neck-deep in the second round of signature collection, but after the court threw out our petition, the time was suddenly available.) In Vancouver, Canada, we announced that this would likely be the final conference CLT&G would attend, and reported our situation to the leaders of taxpayer groups representing five continents around the world.

But in a call to the office, we were told that Jeff Jacoby (see page 3) and Jon Keller (excerpts on page 4), in the Boston Globe that morning, had written incredibly supportive columns warning of CLT&G's impending demise – and that the office phones were ringing off their hooks with new supporters joining up!

Chip Faulkner faxed us the columns, which were joyously read to the conferees by Taxpayers Association Internationale president Björn Tarras-Wahlberg of Sweden.

Then, during Barbara and my ensuing vacation, came reports from CLT&G executive assistant Loretta Hayden that the response to our mailing was pouring in – and that the verdict was overwhelmingly positive: CLT&G should stay alive and fighting!

So here we are, by popular demand and for as long as we have your continued support.

One of our new goals to avoid that precipice again is to double the CLT&G membership from its current 9,000 members. We recently added 600 new members. Make sure to tell your friends, family and neighbors that we need their help and support too.

Thank you one and all.

CLT&G Closes Its Boston Office Begins Tele-Commuting from Satellite Offices

On July 31st CLT&G closed its Tremont Street office in Boston and moved 20-plus years of records, files, and equipment into the home-offices of its four staffers.

With the office rent steeply increased, our new-found ability to tele-commute by computer and fax machine, and with our effort to trim to the bone expenses borne by our members' contributions so that we can continue the good fight, we could no longer justify the expense or need for a central location in Boston.

Chip Ford and Barbara Anderson have been working primarily out of their Peabody and Marblehead homes respectively for some two years, and now associate director Chip Faulkner and executive assistant Loretta Hayden have joined the home-office movement and will be located respectively in Wrentham and Stoughton.

CLT&G can still be reached at (617) 248-0022 on weekdays between 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, though we are looking into possibly acquiring an "800" number for the future.

In one form or another, adjusting where necessary, adapting when best, CLT&G continues as long as we have your support.



The Boston Herald • Wednesday, July 15, 1998

School Bureaucrat Indicts Barbara on "Murder" Charge

The Salem Evening News • Friday, August 28, 1998
Reporter's Notebook • By Alan Burke

MARBLEHEAD - Drawing and quartering is too good for her!

The new Salem school superintendent, Herbert Levine, told the Evening News that Proposition 2½ has had "a tremendously negative impact." He cited all the teachers discouraged from entering the profession, the ruinous cut-backs and general damage to education.

Finally, he placed a black cloth on his head, figuratively, and aimed his guns on the mother of it all, saying, "Barbara Anderson should be tried for murder – the murder of the minds of a generation of kids."

"This is unique," laughed Anderson in reply, putting it on par with a candlelight procession in Brookline, in the style of Vietnam War protests, once held to denounce Proposition 2½. "It looks like ignorance is a problem not only with the graduating teachers, but with the superintendents as well."

Anderson points out that Salem voters supported Proposition 2½.

In the same week, Marblehead's own superintendent, Phil Devaux, linked problems with the Coffin School to Proposition 2½. "It's not a coincidence that municipal building maintenance was so often deferred in the 1980s. Deferred maintenance always leads to an accounting."

Meanwhile, Anderson believes that state money still promised for the renovations at the Coffin should make the town spending allocated by last spring's override unnecessary. She wants the money back.

"Initially, I thought I was going to be double-dipped," she complains. But the nature of the state money – it's likely to be a "reimbursement" – means that the taxpayers get relief, she says.

"Marblehead has more than enough money for its schools," she concluded. "No children will have to die because of Barbara Anderson."



Barbara's opening day conference address. Host Troy Lanigan, Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, looks on.

Sixth World Taxpayers Conference

June 11-13, 1998

Vancouver/Whistler, British Columbia, Canada



Chip Ford makes a point while on conference panel. Other panelists, L to R: Dr. Karl Heinz Däke, German Taxpayers Association, and David Stanley, Chairman, National Taxpayers Union.

Question 1 on the November Ballot

In December of 1994, in a lame-duck, post-election session, "The Best Legislature Money Can Buy" took for itself an outrageous 55 percent pay raise.

The next year, threatened by our initiative petition for "A Law to Encourage a Citizen Legislature Accountable to the People," which would have cut both the legislative session and their pay in half, legislators came up with a plan. They'd avoid voting for their own payraises in the future by making them automatic!

Having achieved one of the highest salaries of any state legislature in the nation, our Legislature is proposing a constitutional amendment that will forever lock in the ill-gotten pay level, auto-

matically adjust it to the economy every two years, and enshrine it in the state Constitution, safeguarding it forever from being tampered with by the voters.

"If approved by enough foolish voters, it will make our legislators the only human beings in the history of the world to have a constitutionally mandated and protected salary and perpetual pay raises."

perpetual pay raises.

Whether or not legislators are worth what they're paid is subject to debate. If Question 1 passes, there can never again be that debate. CLT&G will be campaigning against its passage.

That proposed constitutional amendment will be Question 1 on the November ballot. If approved by enough foolish voters, it will make our legislators the only human beings in the history of the world to have a constitutionally mandated and protected salary and



Antitax group giving up?

By Jeff Jacoby

God has inflicted many punishments on the people of Massachusetts. Ted Kennedy. Michael Dukakis. Cambridge. The Green Line.

But those plagues will be as nothing next to the agonies awaiting Bay Staters if the good lord lets Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government go out of business.

CLT, as it is known to friend and foe, is one of the great redoubts of the national tax revolt that burst out of California in the 1970s. Founded in 1974, within two years it had collected its first scalp, crushing a ballot initiative to replace Massachusetts's flat-rate income tax with a scheme of graduated rates. ("That's when the harder you work," CLT explained, "the more they take away.") Eighteen years later, when a gaggle of welfare statists and public sector unions pushed a graduated income tax onto the ballot once again, CLT crushed it once again.

Its finest hour came in 1980. Massachusetts was cracking under the highest tax burden in America. From the governor's office on down, the state was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Democratic Party. Malaise ran deep. And then came CLT, just a-walkin' down the street, with a prescription for tax relief that rocked the establishment: Proposition 2½.

It slashed property taxes. Slashed the auto excise tax. Slashed the income tax for renters. In return, Proposition 2½ was slashingly attacked by the press and the politicians. Fires would burn out of control, voters were warned, because there would be no fire departments to stop them. Sick people would die for lack of hospitals to treat them. Schools would close. The dead would go unburied. If Prop 2½ became law, declared the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns — one of the many such prophecies, and far from the most hysterical "it would effectively wipe out government."

On election Day, Proposition 2½ won in a landslide, 59-41. and CLT, with its tiny staff and its army of volunteers, had become a force to reckon with.

In the 1980s, CLT and its members were the closest thing Massachusetts had to a functioning opposition party. It had one loyalty, and that was to the taxpayers; one priority, and that was tax relief. In 1986, it forced the repeal of the Dukakis income surtax. In 1987, it killed the Legislature's gluttonous pay raise — the third raise in eight years, and a greedy 37 percent to boot.

As Dukakis ran for president, the state's economy disintegrated. Red ink bled all over Beacon Hill, but the Democrats refused to trim the budget. Instead they jacked up taxes — raising the income tax from 5 percent to 5.75 percent, then again to 6.25 percent. A few honest legislators protested, but it was CLT that

declared war — and especially CLT's incorruptible, irrepressible executive director, Barbara Anderson. She vowed that her organization would put the tax hikes before the voters, giving them the chance to undo the Legislature's damage. Sure enough, CLT got a tax rollback on the ballot in November; it appeared as Question 3.

But this time the voters said no. CLT suffered its first major defeat. On the other hand, it rejoiced in the election of a Republican governor who had supported Question 3. William Weld promised CLT he would never sign any law that raised taxes or weakened Prop 2½, and (by and large) he proved true to his word.

Now CLT has stumbled again. Its second attempt to roll back the 1989-90 tax hikes has failed. This time it couldn't even muster enough signatures to get on the ballot. Like locusts, the government employees unions — especially the rapacious Massachusetts Teachers Association — swarmed all over CLT's petition sheets, challenging signatures for any reason, however minute and preposterous. Outspent and outgunned, CLT's four staffers couldn't defeat the unions' army of lawyers and deep pockets: They wound up 26 signatures short.

But what of CLT's own army — the grass-roots activists, the ticked-off taxpayers? Its membership has dwindled in recent years from 18,000 to 9,000. The voters who used to line up at shopping malls to sign CLT's tax-cut petitions now brush past Barbara Anderson and her volunteers. "No thanks, I'm all set," they mutter when asked if they'd like to help lower their own taxes. The callers to radio talk shows who used to chew up the lines in a fury over arrogant politicians now prefer to share Viagra jokes.

So Anderson and her co-director, Chip Ford, are thinking of closing up shop. Their passion for limited taxation and honest government is as hot as ever, but if the public no longer cares when the state rips them off, who needs CLT?

They are surveying their members and asking the public for advice. Keep punching, or hang up the gloves? Keep pushing the Legislature to return some of the state's abundant revenue to the citizens who earned it, or let Beacon Hill's insiders do as they please? Keep telling the truth, or abandon the field to the liars? Anderson and Ford are funny, blunt, hard-headed, cheerful, and idealistic. They work 14 hours a day and pay themselves all of \$369 a week. They are two of the most selfless allies Massachusetts voters have ever had. But they can't keep running on fumes. They need to know they've got some support, and they need some money to cover the rent. It costs \$25 a year to join CLT. The phone number is 617-248-0022.

Jeff Jacoby is a Globe columnist

Thank You Jeff!



The Boston Globe
Thursday, June 11, 1998
Tax-and-spenders gleeful (*excerpts*)

By Jon Keller

When the most significant woman in Massachusetts politics says she's ready to walk away from it all out of frustration and disgust, you'd expect a degree of hand-wringing from a political establishment that's justifiably embarrassed about its chronic female leadership vacuum. But when the woman is blunt-talking antitax activist Barbara Anderson, news of her possible retirement is instead occasion for cork-popping all over Beacon Hill.

"It's great news," says public employee union lobbyist Jim St. George of the Tax Equity Alliance for Massachusetts, or TEAM. "It'll be easier to make good policy in the Commonwealth without a radical libertarian throwing bombs into the arena."

Uh-oh. Say what you will about Anderson's politics, but the loss of her feisty presence would seriously unhinge the Beacon Hill balance of power.

For those who haven't studied tax-hike-speak, when St.

George talks about making "good policy," he means raising taxes on an economy that perennially suffers from a competitive disadvantage with other, lower-tax industrial states. And those "bombs"

Anderson's been throwing since she took the helm of Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government 17 years ago? That must refer to the hundreds of thousands of voter signatures Anderson and her comrades have filed on various initiative petitions aimed at imposing fiscal discipline on an often out-of-control state government. . . .

No wonder the tax-and-spenders are giddy over the end of the Anderson era. They'll argue there's no need for a CLT&G anymore, that a reinvented, centrist, Democratic Party can be

its own fiscal watchdog. It that true? Says Anderson: "If we go away, the world will find out, won't it?"

Jon Keller is political analyst for WLTV-TV's "Ten O'Clock News



The Boston Herald • Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Responses to Barbara's Questionnaire

Six hundred thirty-four CLT&G members (with some couples filling it in different colored ink) responded to the questionnaire that we sent out in June, and the one remaining question is, "Why didn't we do this a long time ago?"

Reading the answers was great fun, informative, heartwarming, and very, very useful. Over the next few issues, we will share more of the responses, both serious and irreverent, with you.

The first item was meant to give us context with the age group of the respondent, but we didn't want to get too personal so we kept it very general. There were four choices: Senior/Seasoned, Mature, 48-55 (like CLT&G staff), and Young.

Many, including some I know are younger than I am, chose "Mature" – an expression, they apparently felt, of their character and personality, not the number of years they've been alive. So the whole category is suspect. Okay, we won't ask *that* again.

The most interesting responses came from the written end to the sentence that began "A politician I like/love/admire (past or

present) is ...

Many made their statement by ignoring the item altogether. Others indulged in amusing but hardly helpful remarks like "You've got to be kidding," and "George Washington: it's been downhill ever since." There were two votes for Bill Clinton who was admired for being "a consummate con-man" and a "showman."

But seriously, folks... Ronald Reagan won handily with 184 votes. Harry Truman came in second with 75 votes, a reflection of our nostalgia for "integrity" and "plain speaking." Barry Goldwater was third with 55 votes, followed by "I like Ike," Newt Gingrich and George Bush. Abraham Lincoln and Joe Malone were tied with twenty votes each.

Honorable mention: Bill Weld, Thomas Jefferson, the two Roosevelts, JFK, George Washington, Ross Perot, Paul Tsongas, Gov. Ed King, Richard Nixon, Bob Dole, Steve Forbes, Sen. John McCain, Bob Hedlund, Robert Taft, Congressman Ron Paul and Leverett Saltonstall.



The Outsiders' Track

By Barbara Anderson

We apparently did a good job in our last newsletter with the CLT&G Honor Roll, listing those activists who did extraordinary work on our "Promise to Keep: 5%" project. In response to our request for the name of anyone we overlooked, one member called reminding us about the excellent **Eunice Janda**.

In April we declined the invitation to speak at the *World Taxpayers Conference* in Vancouver; we thought we'd be doing the second phase of the Promise petition drive. When that project was suspended, **Chip Ford** and I decided to go see how other taxpayer groups were faring. Along with participating in panels on taxpayer activism and fundraising, we collected ideas and moral support from all over the world.

Our Swedish friend **Björn Tarras-Wahlberg** [photo on right], founder of *Taxpayers Associations Internationale*, gave me a bumper sticker from his new campaign. When you see it on my car, only you will know that "Slopa Fastighets-skatten! Värna våra hem!" means "End the Property Tax! Save our homes!"

With a slightly more relaxed schedule, we were able to attend summer cook-outs organized by CLT&G activists. We were invited by **John MacMillan** to a meeting at **Stan Tyliczszak's** home in Westboro and a campaign kick-off in Billerica for state rep. candidate **Brion Cangiamila**, and by **John MacNear** and **Pat Warnock** to Republican Town Committee picnics in Manchester and Marblehead. Associate Director **Chip Faulkner** spoke at the Cape Cod Men's Club and recruited five new members as a result.

We are happy to report that Chipster, with the help of executive assistant **Loretta Hayden**, is establishing a working relationship with a computer. Volunteer **Sheldon Price** drove from Haverhill to Wrentham to create a program for Chipster's CLT&G legislative rating, so that he can be weaned away from his cardboard rollcall vote grids. When the latest rating is done, we will share it with you in time for the November election, along with a list of all CLT&G members we know are running for office.

And there was long-time CLT&G activist **Jack Prindiville** in Worcester on August 28th to greet the President. I'm sure Jack speaks for many of us with his protest statement to the *Boston Herald*: "I don't want the rest of the country to think that Massachusetts voters approve of Clinton."

Some of our new members joined many older supporters who cite the **Jerry Williams** show as their first contact with CLT. Member **Paul Johnson** sent me a tape of one of the first "Gov-

ernors" shows with Jerry, **Howie Carr** and me. Thanks, Paul, for the memories!

We still do guest spots with Jerry, Howie or **David Brudnoy**, at WBSM in Bristol County, WRPT in Middlesex, and WXTK in Barnstable. If you live in parts of Essex County, you can get a

regular update from me on WLLH-AM 1400 Lowell every Thursday morning between 7:45 and 8:45 with **Paul Sullivan**, and on WESX-AM 1230 every third Friday at 11 AM with **Al Needham**. I've invited my Rep. Doug Petersen to an on-the-air "constituent meeting" about the Promise rollback on September 18th. My column runs every other Saturday in the *Patriot Ledger*, and usually the following week in the *Salem Evening News*, *Attleboro Sun Chronicle*, and *Worcester Telegram-Gazette*.

Thanks to **Arthur Evans Jr.** who sent me many valuable items from the Telegram in a booklet he created.

CLT&G activists **Bob & Karen Powell** have been leading the effort to stop a needle-exchange program in Springfield. They are also organizing a rally on October 11th to protest the new gun control law.

Excerpts from my summer columns: [On our vacation in Hawaii] "Chip sent TEAM a funny postcard showing native Hawaiians sticking out their tongues in their traditional symbol of defiance." (Jul 4)

"Promise me you won't be pathetically grateful that politicians are offering to let you keep a sample of your own money." (Jul 18)

"Legislators dealt with the education crisis by announcing a plan to give sign-up bonuses to new teachers who can read. They dealt with crime by a) filing a bill to make you a criminal if you leave your kids in the car, b) passing a bill making you a criminal if a visitor steals your unlocked gun and kills someone, and c) voting to prevent you from taking a popular gambling cruise in Gloucester. I feel safer already." (Aug 4)

"If [House Speaker Tom Finneran] really is saving the taxpayers from Bob Kraft, why won't he let us keep the taxpayer dollars he's saved us instead of spending it on pork on stashing it away on 'Bacon Hill' in his 'slushy day fund'? Both these phrases, by the way, were given to me by state Senate candidate Steve Pitney." (Aug 15)

"If Harshbarger wins the general election, Gerald [Amirault] could be imprisoned for many more years, a victim of the worst injustice that this commonwealth has dealt since the Salem witch trials." (Aug 29)



L to R: Taxpayers Associations Internationale members **Danné Nordling**, Swedish Economist, TAI president **Björn Tarras-Wahlberg**, and **Syunji Inatomi** of the Japanese Taxpayers Association, in Vancouver's Totem Pole Municipal Park.



Barbara's Bulworth Campaign Rap Message

Composed by Barbara Anderson for her June 5th column

Like Sen. Bulworth, you gotta rap it, not say it, to get elected. Let me try out a campaign message:

If you won't sign a petition and you don't have time to vote,
and you think that government is something way out there, remote,
And you hope old Thomas Jefferson was only talking jive,
When he said eternal vigilance was needed to survive,
If politicians lie to you and still get re-elected,
because their broken promises can only be expected,
And you want a balanced budget and a government that's small,
as long as your pet services are never cut at all,
If they state "it's for the children" and you call back "tax me more,"
then they take your hard-earned dollars for their pensions like before,
But still you let them use you while you celebrate their nerve,
then don't come crying here to me, you get what you deserve.

"Bulworth" is a recent 20th Century Fox film, an irreverent political satire produced by and starring Warren Beatty

Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government

The Activist News

PO Box 408
Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

BULK RATE U.S. POSTAGE PAID BOSTON, MA PERMIT NO. 54162



"From the Ashes Rises the Phoenix" - CLT&G Has New Lease on Life!