

SoftServ RTC:

A DisArming Evening With L. Neil Smith

Date: 07/23/90 Time: 23:19EDT

From Steno: Dr. Watson

Attendees:

[[L Neil Smith] PRESS14]

[[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV]

[[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK]

[[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO]

[[Karen] K.POPE2]

[[Kevin] K-MORRIS]

[[Nick] NICK.DOTSON]

[KEITH.KIRTS]

[D.BOWER1]

Minutes:

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Tonight's RTC guest is L. Neil Smith ...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil is one of the hardest core and most successful writers in the field of science fiction and other writings that promote individual liberty ...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> I'm not going to give you a list of his credits because he has them all ready to upload ... so without further ado, I give you L. Neil!

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Room is now listen-only.

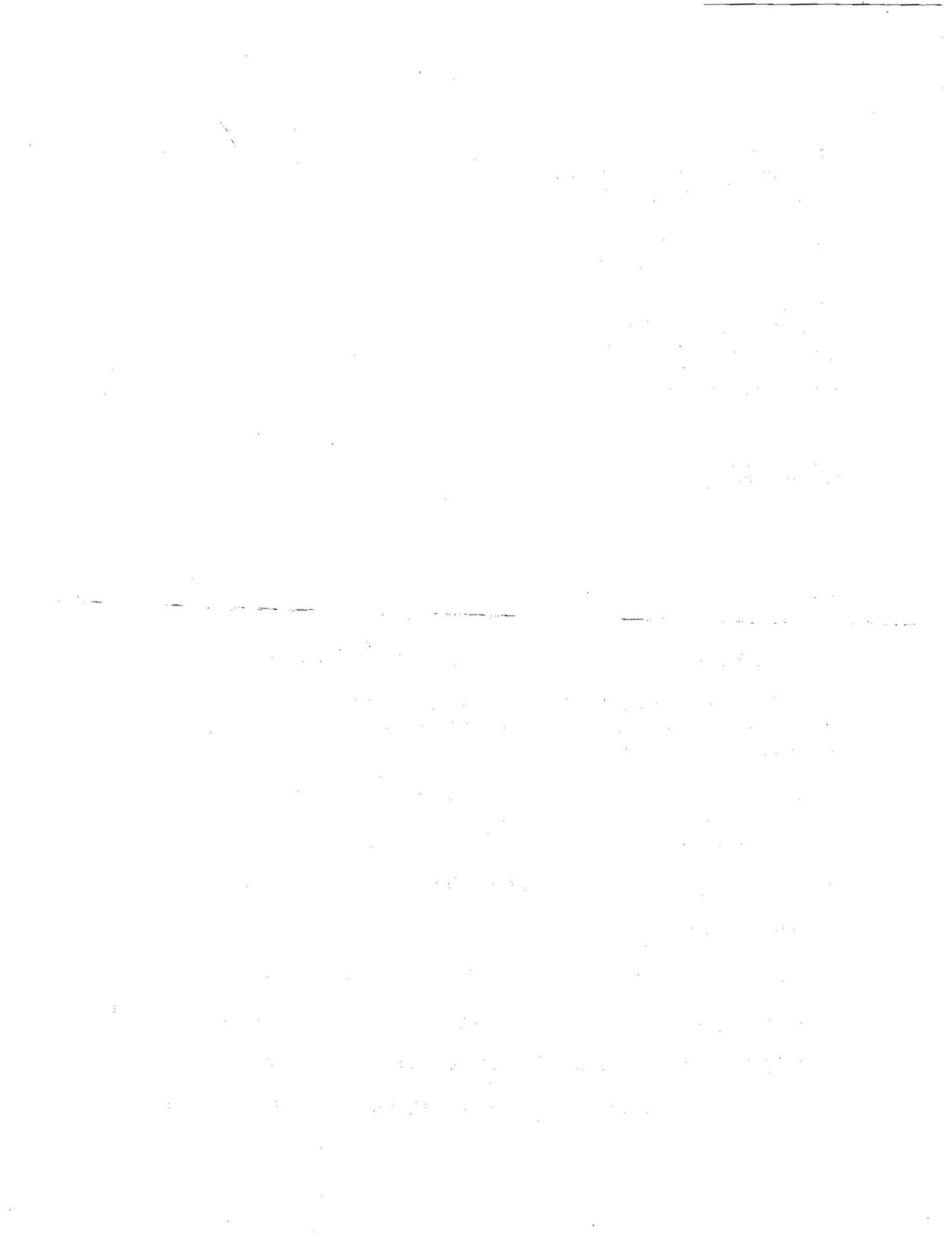
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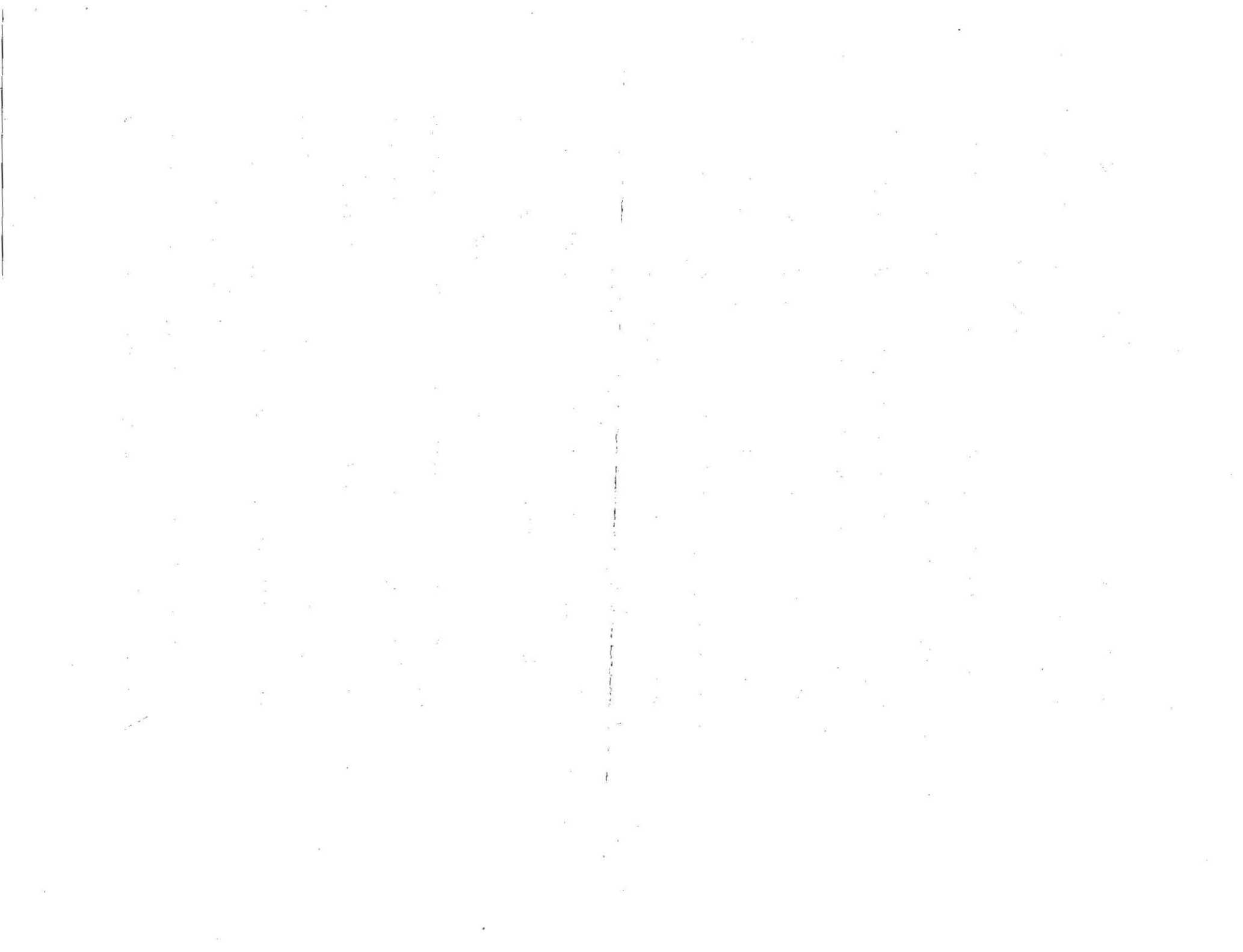


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<PRESS14> recently been working for Marvel Comics' new Open Space  
<PRESS14> anthology series.

<PRESS14> All my writing tends to be rather political (often whether I  
<PRESS14> want it to or not). While this causes me a lot of trouble (for  
<PRESS14> example, the publisher of the first two "Forge" books is trying  
<PRESS14> to back out on the third), it has rewards. It's one thing to  
<PRESS14> stand at the crossroad of history, quite another to help choose  
<PRESS14> which path will be taken.

<PRESS14> I believe we're at an especially critical junction now. The  
<PRESS14> general movement toward individualism and decentralism has scared  
<PRESS14> the pants off our would-be masters, exposing them for what they  
<PRESS14> are. They've responded by closing ranks -- both liberals and  
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<PRESS14> the sake of tightening control -- so that while the rest of the  
<PRESS14> world becomes more free, America may become less so. (This is a  
<PRESS14> major theme of my "Forge" books.) In a sense, we Libertarians and  
<PRESS14> our allies are responsible and we ought to be a bit proud (if  
<PRESS14> perversely so) that we've made the badguys blink. On the other  
<PRESS14> hand, it's a time to double our efforts if we're to survive, let  
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<PRESS14> For my part, I've already written the Covenant of Unanimous  
<PRESS14> Consent, a time-bomb ticking in the heart of the machinery, and





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<PRESS14> at the moment I'm writing \_Pallas\_, a novel about a "North American Confederacy" we stand a real chance of getting to. I'm also doing my first nonfiction book, \_Letters to the Enemy\_, on the right to own and carry weapons.

<PRESS14>

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Room is now in the talk mode.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Hope everybody got that.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Came across great!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Questions?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> OK, I'll keep us in chat mode, so feel free to start. Who's first?>

<[Kevin] K-MORRIS> I guess I will, Mr. Neil, I just wanted to tell you that it was The Probability Broach that led me to becoming a Libertarian, and being interested in politics.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Neil--what prompted you to write the Confederacy novels--any particular event?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, answer at will.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> That's very good to hear. To Vic, I wanted to do for Libertarianism what Edward Bellamy tried to do for socialism.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Wow!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> And why the fascination with guns?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Bellamy, as you may know, wrote **LOOKING BACKWARD** -- I believe personal weapons are the real machinery of freedom.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Because they're "equalizers"?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> A longer answer ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I think that personal weapons are an essential element to maintaining the unique social democracy we identify with

America.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Yes, precisely because they are equalizers.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> More questions?

<[Nick] NICK.DOTSON> Neil, how can you, or anyone with ideas about how they want society to be structured go from written propagandizing of one's ideas to bringing those ideas into real-time being--getting the rascals out of control?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> My only plan ...

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> The Covenant!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> is sheer maniacal persistence -- outliving (or at least outwriting) the bastards. Yes, and there is the Covenant.

<[Nick] NICK.DOTSON> I have read it, would consider affixing my signature to but then what?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Downloadable from Library 11.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Then one more person has declared himself a good guy. May not seem like much, but neither did the initial protest east of the Iron Curtain, either. The idea, while we can't stop them altogether, is to make the badguys hesitate a while before we can stop them.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Neil--How many languages has the Covenant been translated into?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Only four or five at present. More planned.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> How many Signatories?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Only about 300, which Schulman thinks is great. Makes me ashamed to be human, sometimes.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Why are you opposed to ASKING people if they want to sign it?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Because I want a self-motivated level of commitment.



<[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO> I want to know how easy/hard it is for you to write with a little baby at home now.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Great question, Kate ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> It's horrible, sometimes. She cut my workday to about a quarter of what it was. On the other hand, it's worth every nanosecond of it.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> What have you been doing in the non-fiction world regarding gun ownership rights, which you see as fundamental to our freedom?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Okay ...

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> And, BTW, \*sympathy\* on writing with kids around!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I've been writing broadsides, as you know.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Do I detect a bit of sarcasm?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> I get up at 5:00, as you do!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> These will be put together with my other writing in the area ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> and become LETTERS TO THE ENEMY which I'm discussing seriously with Paladin Press.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> And SoftServ!?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I don't see why not.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Me neither!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> YAY!!!

<[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO> Throws confetti

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> We already have your 16 LEVER ACTIONS available as downloads.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> And awaiting #17

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> What I want ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Is a collection that's cheap enough and available, so it can be easily inflicted on everybody you know, as a gift.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> We live to serve!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Er, Serv!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I've stopped ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> temporarily writing LEVER ACTION because ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> my book schedule was getting way behind. Between my daughter and the politics, I was six months behind, which Warner/Questar used as an excuse ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> To cancel the last book of my FORGE OF THE ELDERS trilogy, the most radical thing I've ever written.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Gee, Neil, you should show the bastards by publishing the book on SoftServ!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yeah!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> The foregoing was a commercial.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> It's true, I'm discussing the FORGE trilogy with our host, here.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Faunch, faunch.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> More questions?

<KEITH.KIRTS> What do you think about third party politics, or have you gone over that?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Well...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Good question!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I was very opposed to the LP, after belonging to it for ten years ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Now I think that any weapon which serves us should be used.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> (Sorry, Sam.)

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Look...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Vic writes a neat big piece for GUNS & AMMO ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> People who read it want to know what to do...

<KEITH.KIRTS> I myself am quite interested in what I believe NOW is trying, with perhaps Green Party and other grass roots ecology groups.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Given all the problems we have with the LP...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I'd still rather try to use it than those parties which seem more like natural enemies than potential allies.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Kate just made a great point ...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> That ALL politics is "third party" politics, because it's people deciding what to do with other people!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yeah!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Do you think guns are becoming MORE available even in this restricting atmosphere?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> That's an excellent point. However, sometimes you have to do exactly that in self-defense. In fact, that more or less defines the self defense situation, in which you should be sore at your attacker for having involved you in it. And to answer Vic, yes.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> In fact...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> We're in a golden age of guns, in terms of models, availability, design, etc...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> brought about by the very adversity we're suffering politically.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> (\*wheee!\*)

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Which is sort of one of the points ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > of FORGE OF THE ELDERS)

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Neil, what do you think of my Line Item Veto as a tactic?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Like to see it. Pushing for it makes good propaganda.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Them pushing back'll make BETTER propaganda for us.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > Why did you choose science-fiction as a medium for your message rather than, say, historicals, Westerns, or "mainstream"?

<KEITH.KIRTS > My thought about guns, at present, is that they're just an extension of male dominator behavior - and that that whole dominator business will be have rethink.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Here we go!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > First, I read practically nothing else as a kid -- to Keith: then how come women own all the handguns?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > Neil, they've been brainwashed by men!

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Do you have some stats, Neil?

<KEITH.KIRTS > I say that as a Viet Nam veteran, and as an avid hunter in my youth.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > One thing at a time...

<[Nick] NICK.DOTSON > Neil, what about the gang/gun problem, escalation can't be the answer can it?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > So it's just self-confession of your own doubts...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Let Neil answer, please.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Equal armament is not escalation.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Let me make a coherent reply, okay?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Or at least try.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Look: humankind is more than just some genes and flesh.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> We are what we create.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> The plaque on the outsystem probe...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> should have shown us dressed, with guns on our hips and telescopes pressed to our eyes.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> We are more mechanical than the Borg. We are the Borg.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> What counts isn't the technology you have...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> But whether you use it mortally or not. That's ALL that counts.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Morally. Browningian slip.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Here here!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> The rest of the argument

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> has scrolled up. But any technology that helps good people stay alive and trims bad people from the gene pool is definitely good. And you can tell bad people from good because the bad announce themselves through their actions.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Any questions?

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Guns don't necessarily belong only to m. But we aren't trimming the bad people.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Is there any weapon you'd draw the line at?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Lost some of your message, Karen. However, I have some amazing figures on efficacy. Draw the line? On application, perhaps, never design.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Sorry. We don't seem to be trimming the bad people. It looks random.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Believe me, Karen, it isn't random at all. This is a hard medium to discuss this, but we're successfully defending ourselves 600,000 times a year, at least. Civilians are

killing 5 times as many badguys as the cops and are five times less likely to hurt the wrong person. How's that?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Neil, do you have any stats on gun ownership by women ... since you brought it up?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > Only because the GOOD people are being disarmed or have been fooled into thinking the State will protect them.

<[Karen] K.POPE2 > I've read Paxton's book Armed and Female and shoot some myself.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Well, women own 60% of the handguns in America

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Their ownership has doubled in the last three years.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > If all potential victims were armed, you'd see a lot more dead attackers... and a sudden decrease in "random" crime.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > Wow! Source, please? I want to throw that figure around!

<[Karen] K.POPE2 > Paxton Quigley's book quotes sources on this, too, Neil.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > Good book, from what I hear!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > 60% from Seventeen Magazine of about 8 years ago. The other, a recent gun mag.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK > SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE??!!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > I haven't seen Quigley's book, but will very soon. Have you seen the women's gun magazine?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV > They did their own studies, or are reprinting it?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Own study.

<[Karen] K.POPE2 > Canada doesn't believe in guns, so they don't carry many magazines up here on the subject.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14 > Women & Guns, I think it's called. Quigley's

involved.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> If you can send me a copy, I'd like to upload their stats.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Wow!

<[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO> "Six out of ten polled junior high girls said..."

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I see. Where In Canada? I have lots of friends there.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Gotta get a sub for the wife!

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Vancouver. Great place, but hard to get guns without hordes of paperwork.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Most women, Vic, prefer to pick their own guns -- a lesson S&W has learned well.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Vancouver. We have ISIL friends there. Rob Gillespie, for one.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, I'd like to move from application to theory for a moment ...

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> What sort of publishing prejudice have you run into with your books?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> GA, Neil.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Karen: I have shooting friends in Calgary. They've gone through the paperwork and everything and are almost as well armed as I am. Okay, I'll move along.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Just what are the roots of your philosophy?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Philosophical roots are Objectivist with seasoning of LeFevre.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> More lately, Darwin.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Where did it start?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> And when?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I read ANTHEM in Jr, High

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Thought it was SF.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Picked up FOUNTAINHEAD. Wasn't SF, read it anyway. Doomed from there on.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> What was it you asked about prejudice?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Something about prejudice my books have encountered.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> What sort...

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> of publisher's prejudice/interference have you run into, esp. at Del Rey?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> HA! ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Well, Judy-Lynn del Rey once told my agent ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> that I'd be a great writer if I'd give up that Libertarian nonsense...

<[Karen] K.POPE2> <giggle>

<D.BOWER1> <heh>

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> A philosophical giant!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> She's dead--we don't have to take her seriously anymore (nor Rand, for that matter!).

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Geez. I told Russ to tell Judy Lynn she'd be a great publisher if she weren't Jewish. I almost said if she wasn't a dwarf.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Seriously ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I have all kinds of problems -- I think. It's hard to tell. They never confront you directly. They just don't push your books, and all kinds of little things go wrong. Your royalty statements are a joke ... you know how it is.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Do I ever...



<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Mainly, they don't advertise you where you could gain your own audience.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Are they suppressing us ... or are we just paranoid?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Both.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Even paranoids have enemies.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Let's compare royalty statements with statisticians such as...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Such as Michener?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Such as Clark?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> JOEL R. and JERRY P.!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> even.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> How do Joel and Jerry do?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Hmm ... I know plenty of statistic writers who don't sell well!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Damn better than J. Neil or I!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yes, but do you know of many Libs who DO?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> That's true, and we may just be bleating. On the other hand, Brad L. thinks there's a "gray list."

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Gray list?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Look ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> My personal sales problem is that I can't reach my "natural" audience ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> which doesn't read SF mags ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> So what I'm going to do ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I find a way to advertise where no publisher has gone before (or wants to), the gun mags. Remember I mentioned

Massad Ayoob?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Ayoob wrote IN THE GRAVEST EXTREME and has sold half a million worth in ten years through small ads in gun mags.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> I have a question, Neil, about the LP. They sent me a pledge notice which I couldn't sign, as it seemed to say in effect no handouts for the homeless or poor or anyone in trouble. Your books don't seem to deal with this that I've noticed.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Karen ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> The point is this: no handouts at the INVOLUNTARY expense of people from whom the government takes the money at gunpoint. My books don't deal with it because government causes poverty in an industrial economy.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Maybe in your experience, Neil, but not in mine. Personal idiocy (playing politics) and various things put my family on food stamps for a while.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Karen -- that's a voluntary poverty for which no third party should have to be forced to pay, isn't it?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> And there's this ...

<[Karen] K.POPE2> So women and kids have to suffer for the wage-earner's stupidity? No mistakes allowed?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Why do we assume that because government won't be doing anything about a problem, nobody will? Do you have any idea how many billions are paid to private charities every year in this country? Mistakes? I didn't say they weren't allowed, just wonder why the rifle muzzle is in my ear about them.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> So another family has to suffer for a stranger's stupidity? No choice allowed?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Bob LeFevre said ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> That whenever somebody gets something for nothing, somebody else is getting nothing for something.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> But who then would be responsible for distributing the charity? I do agree, in general, with the philosophy, just have a few exceptions regarding the powerless. If charity is in effect, then

that is great.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Charity begins at home. One's OWN home.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Look ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I have no gripe with private, personal charity. However ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Why do you assume it will be necessary? With no government, we'll all be 8-10 times as rich.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> I'd like to be as rich!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> There will be massive labor shortages.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Yeah. I agree with that.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> So we need to work on getting rid of the drain, and that's government. Anarch!

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Already are labour shortages around here, anyway. Try hiring a secretary or shop clerk!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Neil. Vic.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yes?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Do you guys have a copy of the speech I made at FOFCON in '87?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, do you have your chart about how the government fleeces us in uploadable form?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> I'm not sure....

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I have no chart. it's all Austrian reasoning.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> I don't have a copy of the speech.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> When Tax Free day comes in July, I KNOW we are supporting too much/too little gov't.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Look for I DREAMED I WAS A LIBERTARIAN IN MY MAIDENFORM BRA

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Karen ...

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> After five moves in one year, Neil, I may never find it.

<[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO> I can vouch for that.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> I made a speech at FOFCON in '87 that explains the whole thing, and I'll give it to SOFTSERV for their freebies list, okay?

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Great!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Great!

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Thank you!

<[Kate] SOFTSERV-KO> throws confetti again.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> You're all exceedingly welcome. It's nice doing this BBS thing with intelligent people, instead of the way I started locally.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> How are you treated by people at conventions?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Any bullies?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Mostly ignored. Seldom go to conventions. Most of them left/liberal. I eat bullies for lunch, however.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> I've noticed.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> What's your favorite gun to shoot?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Another story for the phone, about Jerry P. My favorite gun...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Right now, it's a Grizzly Win Mag in .45 Winchester magnum. Usually it's my Seecamp .45 or my Bren Ten 10 mm

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Any you'd LIKE to own?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Very fond of PPK .32, as well. I'm looking at the Javelina 10mm, also the new S&W 10mm revolver. Think well of the Coonan .357 auto, too.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> OK--what can WE--each individual--do to increase freedom?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Love to have a rifle in 10 mm or .45 Win mag.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, how about a charity that gives guns to the needy?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Har har!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Gun stamps? Good idea, but already thought of by Archie Bunker. Remember NatLamp's Guns for Nuns program?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> BATF would crush them pretty quickly.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Gun stamps! I love it!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Increase freedom? Simple plan ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Use everything you can, the LP, the Constitution, the present law ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> prosecute Metzenbaum for violation of Title 18, Sect. 241, 2412, ...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Stand on bureaucrat's toes (how come I sound like Manny from Moon is a Harsh Mistress all of a sudden?)

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Grab his lapels, shout up his nostrils. He'll back off.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yeah, right, a Mere Citizen can walk into a police department and tell them to send a cop over to Metzenbaum's palace!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> How can one prosecute a Title 18 violation?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Find an ambitious DA. One for your current State attorney, too. Write letters about it, make public, good propaganda.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> It's THEIR sandbox.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Yeah, but it still contains sand, if you know what I mean.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> If they publicly violate too many of their own rules, we win that one, too.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> On the other hand, ignoring the State and encouraging others to do the same... violate gun laws, drug laws, tax laws... This strikes at the CORE of the State.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Besides...

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> While I don't oppose civil or uncivil disobedience, it doesn't solve any long range problems.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> And doesn't win you common folk support, either.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Neither does spending years in court at further expense to taxpayers.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> They will always turn on one another if they see an advantage.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Don't need court,.. need media.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> They own the media, mostly.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Amen! Are doing that right now in our B.C. Legislature. Lots of fun to watch!

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Media liberal pigsucking ruling class.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> No likee freedom mongers.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Court isn't where it happens. it happens out here. Media can be had. Next generation will be Libertarian.

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Mine will be!

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Sorry about the pidgin English, folks.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> We are making serious inroads on the other side.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, want to upload your book list now?

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> The important issue is guns.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Women are joining our ranks.

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Even here they are finding they can't take them away from the few that have them, which is a great sign.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Thoughtful liberals are switching sides -- like Paxton Quigley and the Yale Law review guy.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> All we have to do is stand firm and not compromise. We become the beacon they home on.

<[L Neil Smith] PRESS14> Ready to upload now.

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> GA

< P R E S S 1 4 >  
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<PRESS14> ----- NOVELS BY L. NEIL SMITH -----

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- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <PRESS14> CONVERSE AND CONFLICT                         | Warner/Questar, 1990 |
| <PRESS14> CONTACT AND COMMUNE                           | Warner/Questar, 1990 |
| <PRESS14> HENRY MARTYN                                  | Tor, 1989            |
| <PRESS14> TAFLAK LYSANDRA                               | Avon, 1989           |
| <PRESS14> BRIGHTSUIT MACBEAR                            | Avon, 1988           |
| <PRESS14> THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE                            | Tor, 1986            |
| <PRESS14> THE WARDOVE                                   | Ace, 1986            |
| <PRESS14> THE GALLATIN DIVERGENCE                       | Del Rey, 1985        |
| <PRESS14> TOM PAINE MARU                                | Del Rey, 1984        |
| <PRESS14> LANDO CALRISSIAN AND THE STARCAVE OF THONBOKA | Del Rey, 1983        |
| <PRESS14> LANDO CALRISSIAN AND THE FLAMEWIND OF OSEON   | Del Rey, 1983        |

<PRESS14> LANDO CALRISSIAN AND THE MINDHARP OF SHARU      Del Rey,  
1983

<PRESS14> THE NAGASAKI VECTOR      Del Rey, 1983

<PRESS14> THEIR MAJESTIES' BUCKETEERS      Del Rey, 1981

<PRESS14> THE VENUS BELT      Del Rey, 1980

<PRESS14> THE PROBABILITY BROACH      Del Rey, 1980

<PRESS14> ----- FORTHCOMING -----

<PRESS14> CONCERT AND COSMOS      Warner/Questar, 1990

<PRESS14> PALLAS      Tor, 1991

<PRESS14> LETTERS TO THE ENEMY (nonfiction)      negotiating

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yay!

<PRESS14> Okay?

<[Victor] SOFTSERV-VK> Yes!

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Great!

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> Neil, I'd like to thank you for a wonderful RTC!

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Have enjoyed this but I don't have a free flag. TTFN!

<[Win Bear] PRESS14> Thanks very much!

<[Karen] K.POPE2> Bye and Thanks!

<[NeilSchulman] SOFTSERV> And I'd like to announce that Neil will be back  
with us under his own account in a few days!

=== End of Steno notes. ===



## THE CITIZEN'S LINE ITEM VETO PROPOSITION

"If voting could change anything, it would be illegal." -- Karl Hess

"If a law is disliked by as many as one-third is it not likely that you would be better off without it?" -- The Moon is a Harsh Mistress, Robert A. Heinlein

Here's a proposition that, if passed, would convince me to abandon two decades of abstinence from the political process, register to vote, and vote early and often -- too often, I think, for this proposition to stand any chance of being enacted, for it would actually place real power in the hands of the average voter in a way that the established Powers That Be would not permit.

You are free to try proving me wrong by attempting to get it passed: I assure you it will not be enacted into law without being watered down so much as to be meaningless. But I offer it as an exercise for the politically active, to demonstrate to them the contempt in which the electorate is held by elected and appointed officials, and how any real attempt to enfranchise power in the hands of the people will be resisted tooth and nail.

California has in place a method of amending the state constitution through voters' initiatives called propositions. Very well -- California is as good a place as any to test any whacky new idea. If successful here, it will be imitated in other states, and perhaps even federally. Therefore, herewith proposed to be placed before the voters of the State of California is

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## THE CITIZEN'S LINE ITEM VETO PROPOSITION

Summary: The State of California shall establish a statewide voicemail telephone system whereby voters may exercise a line-item veto over all legislation signed by the governor. A one-third vote in favor of vetoing a line item shall prevent it from becoming law, with no override available.

The proposition:

Within one year of the passage of this proposition:

I. A. The State of California shall register any California voter who wishes to enroll for Citizen's Line Item Veto participation. Such enrollment shall identify these voters in a manner not invasive to their personal privacy, but with a level of security equivalent to that used by the commercial banking industry for telephone banking transactions.

B. The State of California shall establish a state-wide voice-mail telephone system, operated by touch-tone telephones using an (800) area code telephone number or other free-to-caller area code. All California voters enrolled for Citizen's Line Item Veto participation shall be entitled to vote on this system.

C. Each line item in all legislation signed by the governor the previous week shall be placed before the enrolled voters on this voice mail system. Each voter on the system shall be given one vote per line item of legislation signed by the governor, YES or NO.

D. A count shall be made each week of all votes on each line-item. If a line-item gains one-third or more NO votes, it shall fail to have been passed into law, and no appeal to any legislative, executive, or judicial authority may override this veto.

II. The State of California shall provide a weekly line-item summary of all legislation which has been signed into law by the governor the previous week. Such summary shall be in a form understandable to any resident of the State of California with a high school diploma issued by a California public school, and shall be made publicly available.

III. To compensate voters in the Line Item Veto for the time and effort of reading the legislation and registering their vote, all voters enrolled in the Line Item Veto who vote on the system at least eight times per year shall be exempt at point of sale on all purchases from the California Sales Tax for the next year.

IV. No line-item vetoed by the voters of the Line Item Veto may be reintroduced into legislation for a period of three years.

V. No tax or other method of public funding, including all usage fees, shall pass into effect without being subject to the Citizen's Line Item Veto, nor shall any tax or other method of funding, including all usage fees, remain in effect two years from the passage of this proposition unless it is placed before

the enrolled voters of the Citizen's Line Item Veto.

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--J. Neil Schulman