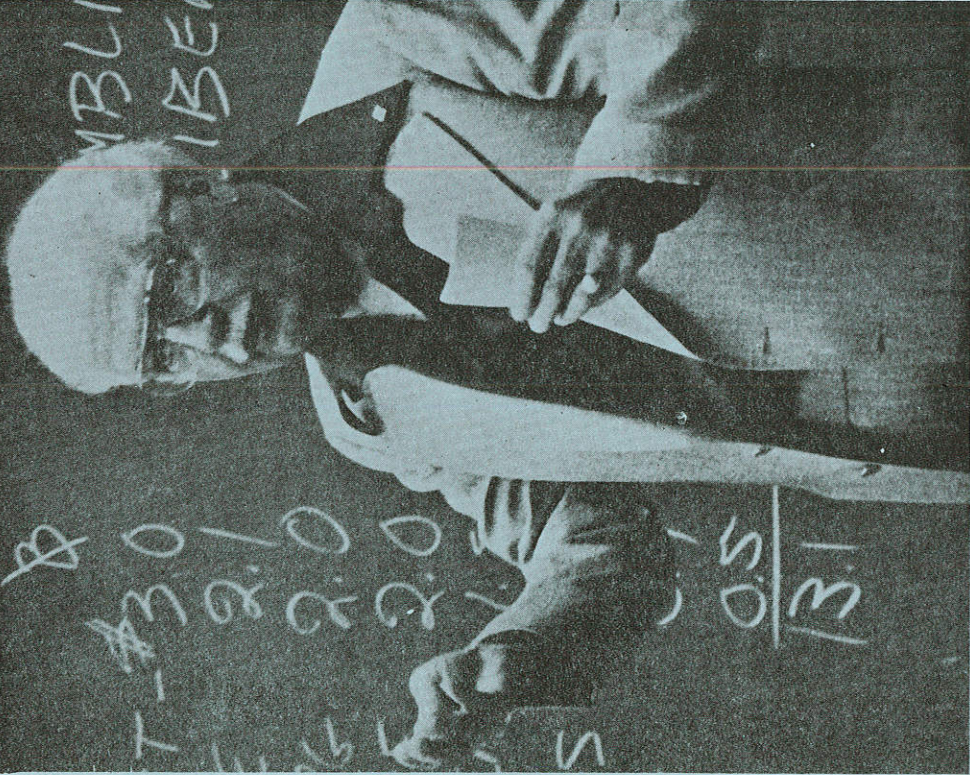


# Protection?:



**INADEQUATE SAFETY** -- Libertarian spokesperson Robert LeFevre argued last Friday night that current government methods offer little or no protection to the private citizen. LeFevre felt that police protection should be eliminated and replaced with more efficient marketed devices. (phot by Dean Lyon)

The article above was published in the *el Don*, the campus newspaper at Santa Ana College. The lecture was published in June, 1979 (\$2.50 each or 2/\$4.50). Write to Rampart Institute for the booklet and for Rampart Institute catalog of educational materials (posters, buttons, stickers, T-shirts, medallions, etc.). Rampart Institute, P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632 (714) 979-5737.

# Government offers vengeance; Libertarians achieve safety

By Dean Lyon

"Governments have never really said that they are going to protect us," contended Robert LeFevre, a straight-forward, informed philosopher of Libertarian thought.

LeFevre addressed the question of "Does Government Protection Protect?" last Friday night at SAC.

LeFevre began his two and a half hour lecture by defining the term "protection". He maintained, "Protected you are safe and nothing ever happens to you.

"Governments have provided us with laws of retaliation not laws of protection," he said. Thus, the government has merely provided a means of vengeance while disregarding preventive measures.

"Retaliation is as far removed from protection as competition is from monopoly. They are mutually exclusive terms."

"Retaliation (or governmental protection) is made up of punishment," "something inflicted by authority", restitution, "something taken away is restored" and defense, "to curtail (a form of combat)," according to the white-haired LeFevre. "All of those things are undesirable, what you really want is protection."

The government has created "Lumphthink" by lumping these terms together to mean protection, he related.

LeFevre produced evidence and crime statistics compiled by the F.B.I. which when interpreted show that "Police are successful only 20 per cent of the time. In 1970, 2,169,000 burglaries were reported, 19 per cent were solved, 9 per cent were convicted and 3 per cent of the criminals served out or are still serving time. Meaning if you were a criminal you have an 81 per cent chance of not getting caught, 91 per cent chance of not being convicted and a 97 per cent chance of not serving

out the term if convicted.

"Those are better odds than you can get in Vegas if you own the casino.

"I am not engaged in attacking the police," insisted LeFevre. They do the best they can under the circumstances. "They just don't know who did it."

He then discussed why police do not know who has committed a crime. "Crooks do not perform for police audiences. They wear distinct uniforms, carry noisemakers and flashing lights." It is no wonder that the only one there to witness a crime is the crook.

Essentially, LeFevre demonstrated that "protection is easier and more effective than retaliation. Stop the terrible things before they happen." He added, "ours is a system that is so bad that as you improve it it gets worse."

"The police are hired to keep an eye on tax payers as potential criminals," he said. Therefore, the ratio of police to citizens is such that crime is a fairly safe profession. He quotes a Missouri convict as saying, "Our profession is understaffed."

LeFevre eloquently presents his case, proving that government protection protects criminals while having little effectiveness on our "safety."

"The government rips people off to get together the money to keep people from getting ripped off," indicated LeFevre. He felt that the answer was for private citizens to stop paying "protection" taxes and invest in their own protection devices to deter and prevent crimes. Locks, burglar alarms, steel bars and even "a trap door over a hole filled with quick lime," were discussed as efficient methods of protection.

But, above all, LeFevre wants to get law and order out from under the auspices of the ineffective governmental philosophies. After all, "There is bound to be an increase in crime as long as the legislature is still in session," said LeFevre. "Government cannot act unless it is violating boundaries otherwise it has nothing to do."