

COLORADO LIBERTARIAN PARTY

CLiPboard



Official monthly newsletter of the Colorado Libertarian Party

720 E. 18th Ave., Suite 309

Denver, CO. 80203

(303) 837-9393

December, 1989-January, 1990 issue

Organize Colorado Springs: CLP goal for January, 1990

An organizational meeting for a Colorado Springs affiliate of the Colorado Libertarian Party will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Colorado Springs home of Marilyn Vaughn, 4887 Del Sol.

Organized by CLP Membership Chairman Chris Bogart, the meeting will feature Mary Margaret Glennie, coordinator of the Freedom Now! organization in Fort Collins, speaking about her successful efforts at organizing Fort Collins; Joe Dehn, secretary of the national Libertarian Party, talking about the course of the LP in the '90s; and Ron Bain, acting chairman of the CLP, speaking about recent efforts to revitalize

the state party.

Anyone who lives in the 719 area code is invited to attend the organizational meeting, which it is hoped will produce a group of local citizens willing to actively carry the Libertarian platform to southeastern Colorado. The CLP Board of Directors will meet following the organizational meeting, and all of the members of the board will be on hand for introductions and to answer questions during the organizational meeting.

Fort Collins science fiction writer L. Neil Smith was invited to speak at the meeting, but was forced to decline due to the birth to he and his wife of a new baby daughter.

Calendar:

January 9

Denver Cocktail Party at the home of CLP Acting Chairman Ron Bain, 1450 Adams (7 blocks west of Colorado & Colfax). Party begins at 7:30 p.m.; call 321-6780 to RSVP or for directions. Refreshments provided; donations requested.

January 13

Meeting to organize a Libertarian affiliate in Colorado Springs at the home of Marilyn Vaughn, 4887 Del Sol, beginning at 2 p.m. Speakers include Mary Margaret Glennie, Joe Dehn and Ron Bain. CLP Board meeting will follow.

January 15

Fort Collins Cocktail Party at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Margaret Glennie, 1317 Lakewood Drive in Fort Collins. Call 484-4184 to RSVP.

Send calendar announcements to CLP HQ.

Nairne resigns; Rick Shaw replaces him

Mark Nairne resigned as the CLP's campaigns chairman during the Dec. 9 board meeting, and was replaced by KTVD Operations Manager Rick Shaw during an emergency board meeting held Dec. 22.

Nairne expressed an interest in working with the Democrats as one of his reasons for resigning. Shaw hopes to run for the U.S. Senate seat being abandoned in 1990 by GOP

Sen. Bill Armstrong, and believes the experience as campaigns chairman will benefit that effort.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, Jon Baraga, former CLP membership chairman, showed an interest either in the campaigns post or a paid fundraising role. Baraga eventually declined both, leaving open a paid-on-a-commission basis fundraising post; call 837-9393 to apply.

from the chair

By Ron Bain
Acting CLP Chairman

Princeton biochemist Ethan Nadelmann. Former Secretary of State George Shultz. U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet. Conservative columnist William F. Buckley. Mayor of Baltimore Kurt L. Schmoke. Economist Milton K. Friedman. The Economist, a British publication. The Drug Policy Foundation, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

Suddenly, Libertarians are in very respectable company in their call for the re-legalization of currently illicit drugs. The more Drug Czar William Bennett blusters and sputters in frustration over the mounting tide of conservative calls for a debate on re-legalization, the more his tired and spent War on Drugs looks like what it truly is: a ridiculous farce, an unprecedented, pointless pogrom against the American people.

As it becomes more and more apparent that our nicotine-puffing, cocktail-sipping leaders and bureaucrats, soldiers and spies have been hypocritically smuggling drugs to finance covert operations and line their own pockets -- while simultaneously imprisoning and killing private entrepreneurs for the same acts -- it becomes apparent we need to be in the streets, just like the Chinese, the Poles, the Hungarians, the Czechs, and the East Germans, demanding radical reforms in our corruption-ridden government!

So it disturbs me when I run into Libertarians who still want to treat the drug plank in the LP's platform in the *old* way: a quiet whisper, "Yes, we support the

legalization of drugs -- but we don't want to talk about it."

Well, I want to talk about it! The War on Drugs is a declared war by the American government against the American people and the American Constitution, and all of our endless talk about liberty will be futile and wasted if the War on Drugs is won by the government. Stalin has been reincarnated in America in an unholy triad composed of Bennett, Biden and Bush, and unless the American people begin a peaceful revolt *now*, we will live under 40 years of Stalinist rule just as the Soviet people did!

Unless you're a Mormon tee-totaller, your rights to consume the things you're used to, like tobacco, alcohol or caffeine, could be in danger. Our prisons are full of political prisoners whose only crime was to disagree with our nation's unjust drug laws -- the public is paying \$20,000 per year for each prisoner behind bars, but the government-induced hysteria has most taxpayers clamoring for yet more scapegoats to be incarcerated.

There's only one way to stop it...an overwhelming, incontrovertible, undeniable Libertarian voting surge in first 1990, then 1992, then 1994 and 1996...!

But that means we've got to get to work right now to make those votes start to happen. Sign up and pay dues! Rejoin! Pledge! Volunteer! Petition! Get active! Save your freedom...no one else is going to do it for you!

In Liberty,

Ron Bain

letters to the clipboard

Elections aren't necessarily the best way for individuals to express themselves

Dear CLiPboard Readers:

After having moved from Ohio to Colorado, I have been pleasantly suprised to find the largest contingent of Libertarians I've ever lived in the midst of (with the possible exception of Washington, D.C. - a hot bed nest of criminals...no, not drug pushers, politicians!) As a result, I am beginning to meet new friends who share my philosophical, political, economic and social ideas. However, I try not to fall into what Harry Brown so accurately refers to as a "group trap"; in our case the "Libertarian Party" group trap.

Having been a performing artist for almost 20 years, I have had the chance to do a lot of traveling. No matter where I have been, the Libertarians I have met consider themselves "a group of Libertarians". To refer to oneself as part of a "Libertarian Party", movement, or whatever, first and foremost is a contradiction in one word. "We" are individuals first, separate and unique. We are individuals free to choose our own path; free from the constraints others either impose or attempt to impose upon us. Let others be

ruled by another individual's or group's idealistic doctrine and rhetoric. This is a basic Libertarian principle. Therefore, though I support the Libertarian logic, I cannot always support those whose actions replicate those of the mindless masses who follow demagogues out of nationalistic fervor, i.e., Nazis, Communists, Democrats, Republicans, any more than I can support those who follow a Libertarian group regardless of their own beliefs.

For example, Ron Paul is against abortion because he believes it is an act of aggression. I believe an unwanted, unborn child can be a parasite. Vive la difference! But, I voted for him. Like a blind fool, I sleep-walked to the polls and played connect-the-dots wherever I could find the word "Libertarian" or anything close to it. Elections are a gambling game as addictive as crack and as dangerous as lion taming - fascist dictators have come to power with less effort than elections or even protest or petitions require.

Continued on page 3

more letters to the clipboard

Send letters, guest editorials, diatribes, news, photos, etc. to: CLIPboard, 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, CO. 80203.

Who snuck through requirement raising number of signatures needed to run?

Editor's Note: A copy of this letter was also sent to Colorado Secretary of State Natalie Meyer.

Dear Editor:

I was very surprised to learn today that the Colorado legislature increased the number of signatures required to get an independent or third party candidate for the legislature on the November ballot.

The old requirement, as shown in my 1986 Colorado Election Laws, is 300 signatures. The new one is 1,000 or 20 percent of the last vote cast in the district, whichever is less. The 20 percent would never

come into play; 1,000 seems to be about 3 to 5 percent in typical Colorado legislative districts.

Could you tell me whether this change was made in 1987, or in 1989? If it was made in 1989, could you tell me the bill number?

Thank you very much.

**Sincerely yours,
Richard Winger
San Francisco, California**

P.S. Did Colorado Libertarians know about this bad change in the law?

Elections vs. individuality: no way to achieve truly representative government

Continued from page 2

Though I truly respect Ron Paul and his views so much so that I feel a kinship with him, he *did not fully* represent my views in the 1988 elections. Though I do not believe elections are a good way of having one's views represented (the blind masses seem to love elections), it is not this that is the point. Rather, it is the individual oneself who must decide if elections will choose a complete representative of one's own beliefs. I personally believe oneself is a more reliable holder of one's own ideas and actions, rather than entrusting them to an outside party. But, if one is willing to put in jeopardy his or her views by handing them over to a person or central committee, fine, just do so consciously.

We, as individuals, no matter how closely in line our thoughts and views, will almost never agree on the nitty-gritty details of any certain idea or view. Point of view is like a fingerprint: no two alike.

Another case in point: I had just moved to Fort Collins when I attended a public relations event which showcased the town's artists, businesses and political groups. I stumbled across the Libertarian Party booth. Immediately, I was handed several different petitions to sign, espousing different causes and beliefs which were in line with my personal ideology. Almost unconsciously, I signed them. It later occurred to me the real extent of my actions. In signing those forms, I put my name on a paper to be wielded by a person I probably do not know, who is supposed to accurately represent my personal views. Then, this paper is to be given to a powerful and thus, potentially dangerous person (in my opinion, politicians usually are, especially when they have lists of names!). I had only myself to blame if things did go awry!

The chances are minimal that the politician will do anything against me or *about the issues* he's been presented on those forms (thus, signing them anyway was a wasted act!).

But if I were to make a suggestion to anyone, Libertarian or otherwise, it would be to know that the

person one places in power and entrusts with one's ideals, hopes and dreams, can, at any time, turn against you. Power taken synthetically, as opposed to the individual power one is born with, corrupts all too easily.

"The great thing about this country is that there is enough corruption for everyone." - Isabel Allende

**Philip S. Rosemond
Assistant Professor of Dance
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado**

Editor's Note: Mostly highly individualistic, non-conformist Libertarians would probably agree, Prof, but so far no one has come up with a better way to run a government. Best to keep working on educating the voters so they'll cast the least harmful votes!



The CLIPboard is the official semi-monthly publication of the Colorado Libertarian Party, 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, CO. 80203.

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clp progress report

Here's an encapsulized and brief summation of the accomplishments of the Colorado Libertarian Party since October:

Cocktail Parties - Monthly cocktail parties have resumed on the first (or sometimes second) Tuesday of each month at the home of CLP Acting Chairman Ron Bain, 1450 Adams in Denver, usually starting about 7:30 p.m. The host is providing refreshments and requesting donations to cover expenses and to go the party. The next cocktail party is Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; call 321-6780 to RSVP.

Office Activation - There are now human beings staffing the CLP office at 720 E. 18th Ave., #309 every week! They include CLP Communications

Chairman Noah Broadbeck on Mondays, Beverley Morrisey on Tuesdays, National LP Secretary Joe Dehn on Wednesdays, Peggy Weaver on Fridays, and Ron Bain on Saturdays! Call 837-9393 if you want to volunteer.

Media Outreach - Letters to the editor published include one by Bain in the **Denver Post**, two in the **Rocky Mountain News** - one by Dwight Filley and the other by CLP Membership Chairman Chris Bogaart, and one in the **Colorado Statesman** by Bill Orr.

Convention Bids - By a Dec. 9 vote of the CLP Board, all bids for the following year's state convention must be made public 30 days prior to the current year's convention via publication in **CLIPboard**.



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Is America's media aiding a cover-up of the biggest government scandal since Watergate?

By Ron Bain
Acting CLP Chairman

When Richard Nixon began to betray his oath of office to faithfully uphold the U.S. Constitution, the American media performed the watchdog role with which the Constitution charges them: they caught the miscreant president in the act and exposed him, forcing his resignation. Could it be that, 15 years later, the same media are intentionally looking the other way while George Bush, seated comfortably atop a pyramid of spies, cops and military brass who are smuggling drugs into America to finance covert operations and line their own pockets, grinds Constitutional rights beneath his heel?

There have been hints to this effect in the national and Denver media, to be sure: Columnist Mort Marks detailed in a recent issue of the **Colorado Statesman** the Drug Enforcement Administration's close, friendly ties with Panamanian dictator and drug-smuggler Manuel Antonio Noriega dating back at least to 1978; the international press carried the story in August of DEA Agent Edward K. O'Brien, made famous in the "French Connection" heroin bust and subsequent movie, who was himself busted with 62 pounds of cocaine; last fall, CBS News broadcast on *West 57th*

Avenue the confessions of a Central Intelligence Agency pilot, who said he flew planeloads of illegal arms to Honduras for delivery to the Nicaraguan Contras which were paid for with cocaine and marijuana flown back to U.S. government bases in the same planes!

Indeed, a Honduran airstrip built by the CIA was the "national security concern" which derailed the Iran-Contra trial of former Costa Rican CIA station chief Joseph Fernandez, against whom criminal charges were dropped after Attorney General Richard Thornburgh refused to release "sensitive government documents" relating to the matter.

The so-called Iran-Contra Affair seems really to have much less to do with hostages for arms as it does with cocaine for arms; perhaps we should have been calling it the "Cocaine-Contra Affair" all along.

Both the remnants of the Reagan-Bush administration and the media seem perfectly willing to endlessly flog the hostages question but not a single reporter nor congressional investigator has shown the slightest compunction to query into the government's role in smuggling drugs.

But the government's increasingly hypocritical, increasingly Stalinist war against its otherwise peaceful, law-abiding but drug-using citizens goes on...

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Status conference held in Romer lawsuit

On Dec. 19, the American Constitutional Law Foundation announced that a legal action under its management, *The Colorado Union of Taxpayers, Colorado Libertarian Party, et. al. v. Roy Romer, individually*, had been set for a status conference on Dec. 28 at 2:30 p.m. in Judge Richard P. Matsch's courtroom in the Post Office Building in Denver. The status conference was requested by the governor, and will be fully reported upon in the next issue of the **CLIPboard**.

William Orr, executive director of the Foundation, has been involved in litigating precedent-setting "petition" cases for more than a decade. Orr noted that the current suit was filed last November but has been pending in the Federal District, awaiting a formal hearing on the governor's motions to dismiss.

In an unusual move, Romer, apparently willing to bypass or waive his motions to dismiss, has requested the conference in order to get the court to approve a discovery schedule and set a trial "to expedite the resolution of this public issue."

Last November, when the suit was filed, the plaintiff parties strongly objected to Romer's misuse of his public office and the application of public resources to organize the caustic campaign against the tax limitation petition sponsored by Douglas Bruce known as Amendment Six.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs claim that Romer's actions violated their constitutional and civil rights. They are asking for \$1 million in damages from Romer, personally.

The ACLF noted that the suit alleges that Romer specifically violated the plaintiffs' First Amendment right to "peaceably petition the government for redress of grievances," which is a sovereign right dating back to the Magna Carta.

Historically, the exercise of this right to self-government (i.e., to petition) has been used to "peaceably" secure individual rights from the abuse and/or tyranny of government! The exercise of the right, which is applied directly against government, is regarded by many historians to be sacred in origin.

For example, its first notable exercise was advanced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. His exercise was only on days "consecrated by religion." The Archbishop's petition was used against the tyrant King John, and ultimately gave birth to the Magna Carta in 1215 A.D., the "Great Charter" of human liberties which codified the balance of our "natural God-given rights."

In the second notable exercise of the petition in 1626, King Charles I passed his "sovereignty" to the people--which established the "supremacy of the law." Throughout history the sacred exercise of peaceable petition has been used to increase the charter of human liberty and self-government. Its exercise even gave rise to our own Declaration of Independence.

Executive Director Orr stated: "Our right to peace-

ably petition the government for redress of grievances is incredibly powerful and worth protecting. In the Magna Carta, for example, the king agreed that if he frustrated, ignored or otherwise interfered with a petition, it would be justified for the 'community of the whole kingdom, [to] distraint and distress us in all possible ways by seizing our castles, lands, possessions... 'til the grievance is redressed according to their pleasure; saving harmless our own person and the persons of our queen and children'."

"Our federal and state constitutions guarantee that the sovereign citizens can exercise this important civil right without governmental interference," Orr continued.

Regarding the Romer suit, Orr stated: "Not many will forget how Governor Romer's actions became the focal point and charge which convincingly 'crushed' the Amendment Six petition effort in the final days of the campaign. Romer's efforts were significant and not incidental, because the petition was heavily favored in the polls just weeks before the election."

In '90, Bruce's petition is called Amendment One.

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lp & natcom news

Region 1 NatCom Rep reports on December NatCom mtg.

By Karen Allard, Region 1 Representative to the Libertarian National Committee

"LP National Report: A New Year for Libertarians" was the title of an article written by Joe Dehn for the December 1988 issue of the Washington State LP newsletter. He stated in the article, "With new management, a sound financial plan, an early start on ballot access, and a growing membership, the National LP has the opportunity to start the new year right."

One year later, on Dec. 2-3, 1989, a smaller and more efficient LP National Committee met in San Diego. Was 1989 a good year for Libertarians? Would 1990 be an even better year?

Under the leadership of LP National Chair Dave Walter, it appears that the LP has had a good year. Membership has been steadily growing all year with even greater growth noted since the '89 convention. Fundraising has been successful and the LP's financial status is sound. David Nolan has print ads ready and television ads will go into production at the end of December. The new media relations coordinator, Tonie Nathan, has been working closely with the national media. An article about the "new mood of the Libertarians" will soon be published in the **Washington Times** and is the result of Tonie's hard work. Campus organizing has resumed under the direction of Don Ernsberger and 60 college campus organizations had LP literature tables this fall. Campus LP organizational kits and literature table packages are available from the National LP office.

The LP NatCom members appear to be committed to the approach: "Stay on the offense; be aggressive; and consider every idea." Mary Gingell, chair of the Affiliate Party Committee, has improved communication between the National LP and state chairs. The LP Executive Committee will be hiring a field coordinator to help Mary assist the troubled state organizations. The Ballot Access Committee chair, Steve Givot, has developed a working relationship with Project 51-'92. A plan to target 10 states in '90 for ballot status is underway. As Membership Committee Chair, I presented the committee's recommendations to NatCom. The LP Membership Committee recommended increasing the incentives to state organizations that collect national dues, adoption of a "treat our members as customers" plan, and sending membership packets and membership cards to our members in 1990. These recommendations were accepted by NatCom.

The Outreach Committee Chair, Tonie Black, will be working on special projects this year: Volunteer Day, Tax Protest Day, Independence Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Citizens for Census Privacy. Tonie will be assisting David Nolan on the LP advertising project. The theme in the print and television ads will be "Who defends your rights?...The Libertarian Party, Defenders of Liberty."

NatCom voted to begin accepting bids for the 1993 LP National Convention. The deadline for written bids is August 1, 1990. Tonie Nathan was rehired for 1990 as LP National Media Coordinator.

As you can see, the LP National Committee has set the pace for 1990. Contact your state party and ask how you can help. Become a member of the LP. And be sure to join us this new year in letting others know that the Libertarians are on the move as their "Defenders of Liberty"!

'91 LP Convention set for Chicago

The 1991 Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention will be Labor Day weekend in Chicago. The Libertarian Education Institute (LEI), which has contracted with the LP to produce a festive setting and an educational and promotional schedule, has begun planning and welcomes input from interested individuals.

More than 100 delegates to the 1989 convention in Philadelphia responded to a survey about the '91 convention, many of them making substantial suggestions.

The Marriott Hotel on Chicago's Michigan Avenue Magnificent Mile has already been selected for the convention, and LEI is planning a range of activities around the LP presidential nominating and business sessions. It may be possible to avoid schedule conflicts so that participants can choose to attend all events as well as have a chance to see Chicago.

Chicago's financial markets are a dynamic model of free market activity; cultural and shopping opportunities abound, and a major world science fiction convention will be next door in 1991.

In response to the many participants who have requested more early convention information, LEI has begun a newsletter. To subscribe to the LEI newsletter, or to offer suggestions, write: Sue Walton, LEI, 1111 Church St., Evanston, Ill. 60201.

NES is at it again...this time, in N.Y.

The National Election Service, exposed during the 1988 elections by the Colorado LP's own Jon Baraga (past membership chair), is at it again: on Nov. 7, 1989, in the 11th district of the South Bronx, a New Alliance Party candidate, Pedro Espada, received 12,381 votes, or 42.5% of the vote, but New York's daily newspapers refused to carry his totals. A Conservative Party candidate's 290 votes were reported.

Computer Bulletin Boards

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Free Thought.....	695-0654
World Peace.....	320-4822

CLP officers and Libertarian contacts:

Ron Bain, Party Chair 321-6780
 David Aitken, Finance Chair 831-4334
 Chris Bogart, Membership Chair 221-3243
 Noah Brodbeck, Communications Chair
 837-9393

(Send materials for CLIPboard to CLP HQ)

Rick Shaw, Campaigns Chair 792-2020
 CLP Office & Party HQ 837-9393

720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, CO. 80203

Doug Anderson,
 Denver Election Commissioner 757-8896
 Mesa County Liberty 858-9635

Kim Benham, Chairman
 Freedom Now (Fort Collins) 484-4184

Mary Margaret Glennie, Chairman

Joe Dehn, National LP Secretary 972-8094

National LP Office 1-800-682-1776

1528 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003

No More Drug War Foundation 320-1910

Robin Heid, Chairman

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Marshall Fritz, Coordinator

Montana's Dodge brings FIJA movement to Colorado for '90

Larry Dodge, a Montana Libertarian who ran for Secretary of State in his state in 1988, visited Denver in November to spread the word about his Fully Informed Jury Amendment, which he hopes to see on Montana's and Colorado's state election ballots in 1990.

Speaking to a group of about 20 prominent Denver area Libertarians at the Golden Bell Restaurant, Dodge said that American juries had been instructed to vote their consciences and judge the law as well as the facts of the case until 1895, when a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the language in judge's instructions but not the right itself.

"Why keep it a secret?" Dodge asked rhetorically, asserting that the way around the 1895 Supreme Court decision is to amend each state's constitution to require judges to tell their juries that they can judge the merits of the law.

Alabama already has such a constitutional provision, but the judge also warns the jury to listen to his interpretation of the law. Other states that have had the constitutional guarantee in jury instructions since the 19th century are Georgia and Maryland, but Oregon got it only recently.

A coordinator to lead the FIJA drive in Colorado is needed; contact Jon Baraga at 722-1626.

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