

COLORADO LIBERTARIAN PARTY

CLiPboard

Official monthly newsletter of the Colorado Libertarian Party
720 E. 18th Ave., Suite 309
Denver, CO. 80203
Telephone (303) 837-9393
August-September, 1989 issue



Nairne ponders Senate bid

By Ron Bain
CLP Communications Chair

Mark S. Nairne, elected in May to the post of CLP Campaigns Chair, is pondering a Libertarian bid in 1990 for the U.S. Senate post being abandoned by Republican Sen. Bill Armstrong.

He'll run, Nairne says, if enough early support is shown for his candidacy in the form of volunteers, fundraising and the creation of a campaign staff. Call him at (303) 934-8986 if you want to help.

Nairne's primary issue, indicated by his position as the executive director of the No More Drug War Foundation, will be calling for an end to America's multi-billion dollar Drug Prohibition.

"If people start thinking of it as Prohibition, then they'll think of the solution to the old Prohibition," said Nairne, who hopes to grab media attention by being willing to discuss his own casual use of illegal drugs.

"I'm willing to admit honestly to my past and, likely in the future, drug use and I'm willing to do time -- it's enough of a cause for me," Nairne declared.

"If I went to jail, I would be a political prisoner and there is a long and noble history of people doing that," he added.

Nairne's position on the drug issue illustrates his first goal in conducting the campaign, which will not be to win but to "provide a ballot alternative for people

who are tired of the Big Brother authoritarianism of the Republicans and the Big Daddy paternalism of the Democrats."

Other campaign goals include attracting New Libertarians by emphasizing "baby boom" issues such as a noninterventionist foreign policy, individual choice in abortion questions and ending Selective Service registration.

"I want to end the myth that we're a right wing organization," Nairne said.

Toward that goal, the probable Senate candidate hopes to "spark a debate in the state and national Libertarian Parties" about environmental issues.

"There are plenty of Libertarian Greens -- I believe there's a possibility of a coalition in this country," he remarked.

Nairne would emphasize private and free market solutions to environmental problems, but would also be willing to accept government intervention in the "defense" of private and public property from polluters.

This "rock -n- roll" campaign strategy should attract Young Libertarians who inhabit Colorado campuses, Nairne said. He plans benefit concerts with Zappa-style voter registration tables set up near the doors.

Nairne also proposes, populist style, to limit congressional salaries to a figure double the median American income.

Calendar:

Aug. 30-Sept. 3

"Proclaim Liberty" in Philadelphia, Penn. at the Libertarian Party's 1989 National Convention at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel.

Sept. 9

CLP Board of Directors will meet at noon at the CLP headquarters at 720 E. 18th Ave., Suite 320, in Denver.

Oct. 27-29

"Question Authority" in New York City at the Free Press Association's fourth annual Free Media, Free Minds conference, featuring columnist Walter Williams, probable candidate for the 1992 Libertarian presidential nomination.

Mail your CLIPboard Calendar announcements to CLP HQ or to Editor Ron Bain at 1281 Juniper, Delta, CO. 81416.

Communicating

By Ron Bain,
CLP Communications Chairman

The other day, as I was sitting reading a libertarian science fiction novel by L. Neil Smith while listening to freedom-oriented music by libertarian rocker Captain Flashback just after watching the movie version of Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" on cable TV, I had a brainstorm:

The Libertarian Party and the libertarian philosophy has taken a beating at the hands of the mainstream news media during the past two decades, but lest we forget, libertarian philosophy had a heyday in the popular media three decades ago, in the Sixties, when rock -n- roll bands were espousing an end to overseas warmongering and the draft. Newsmen paid attention when blacks and other ethnic minorities began demanding their inalienable rights (protection from murder, for example). Social agitation made progress toward the repeal of Drug Prohibition, most of which has since been turned back.

The point is that the inroads into the mainstream media in the Sixties was achieved by first making inroads into the popular media. If current trends continue, it might well be that in the Nineties the libertarian message will be much easier to spread through the popular media than through the news media.

I truly believe that nothing would galvanize the Libertarian Party's presidential aspirations in 1992 more than the release of a movie version of Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" (filmed in Colorado, naturally) about six months prior to the election.

Inspired by L. Neil Smith's success in almost singlehandedly carving out a whole new libertarian sub-genre of science fiction, I myself have embarked upon the writing of a libertarian science fiction novel which I hope to see published in the early Nineties. This is the path by which we will make the most progress over the next five years, I believe, in winning the hearts and minds of the American people: through fiction, through music, through movies. Coverage from the news media will follow without fail after enough best-selling libertarian novels, enough libertarian Top 40 hits, enough libertarian movies have permeated the popular media.

If you have a talent, do your part and get to work!

Yours in Liberty,

Ron Bain

Letters to the CLiPboard: Unlimited democracy isn't freedom

Dear Editor:

You know, of course, democracy means government by the people. In an unlimited form, it is not much different than mob rule. The American version of limited democracy provides the non-prevailing parties with basic rights, without regard to popular uproar. The minority, as a political force, is not to be destroyed.

Examples of unlimited democracy exist right now, all over the world. Less sensitive to human rights, they are marked by certain traits: they give to the government virtually all power, without restriction. Frequently, in these systems, the side that prevails routinely destroys the weaker side, often literally, justifying its actions as "the will of the people." Knowing no limits to its power, claiming any aspect of life as its proper area of authority, this form of government, when frustrated in some endeavor, inevitably blames the people for its own lack of success and responds with predictable harshness against the very people it claims to represent. Survivors of many of these unlimited democracies have arrived on our shores in regular waves throughout our history.

Occasionally the laws of a society affect only a part of that society, as with gun laws. Those persons who do not own guns and have no desire to own guns in the future are completely unaffected by laws that concern guns. Statements from this unaffected group, expressing support for gun laws, have no real value. For example, if the people assemble and (discuss) surrendering their excess wealth for the benefit of the needy, statements of support for this idea coming from the poor are far less valuable than expressions of support for this idea coming from the wealthy.

When a proposed law depends on the cooperation of a small segment of society, it is important that society pay attention to what that segment feels. To encourage the support of the non-prevailing group, we guarantee to them their basic rights will never be put on the block of the political process or placed at risk. We consider these rights as being forever sacred and basic to freedom, pledging to the politically weak that we will defend them if they are unable to defend these rights for themselves.

We, in America, have clearly stated that the non-prevailing people among us shall not have to fear the loss of certain rights, no matter how poorly they may do in the political process. Among the rights which we have guaranteed are: life, liberty, arms, religion, the press, speech, assembly and a few others which we regard as constituting our basic freedoms. It is with this firm assurance that all groups can safely participate in our political process, which then allows us to expect all to support the view of the majority. In this way we have risen above the organized mob to the American ideal.

Darel Billings

Mail letters to the CLiPboard to:

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U.S. aid to Bangladesh helps urban elite, not poor

By David B. Kopel

Most Americans, be they for or against nonmilitary foreign aid, assume that such aid benefits mainly poor people in the Third World. But the vast majority of American development aid does little for its intended beneficiaries and instead helps groups that are actively hostile to the poor.

Who but the most hard-hearted reactionary could oppose American food aid? Anyone who examines carefully where the food goes.

Bangladesh provides a case in point. The government keeps two-thirds of the food delivered under the main U.S. aid programs and sells it at market prices to provide a fifth of the government's operating budget.

Most of those who receive the government's grain are in the middle class. According to the World Bank, 27 percent of U.S. food aid goes to the police, military, civil services and employees of large corporations; 30 percent goes to predominantly middle-class holders of ration cards in six major cities, and 9 percent goes to supply mills to grind flour for urban bakeries.

Since the urban population poses a threat of revolution, the government pacifies the cities with cheap grain.

Bangladesh's rural poor do not get even the one-third of the remaining food aid, because rural ration distributors, who are political appointees, sell much of their allotment on the black market. Joseph Stepaneck, an economist with

the U.S. Agency for International Development, estimates about 80 percent of the aid goes to "those with cash in towns and cities." Ten percent of the food eventually does reach the rural poor.

In the fall of 1974, when the price of rice rose, cardholders bought rice at a fifth of the market price. Meanwhile at least 30,000 rural poor adults died because the government refused to divert a few thousand tons to the countryside.

Except in very bad years, Bangladesh raises enough food to feed its population. The problem is not underproduction, but an inequitable distribution system that favors the urban elite.

In addition, as a 1976 U.S. Embassy cable stated, "...The incentive for the Bangladesh government to devote attention, resources and talent to the problem of increasing domestic food-grain production is reduced by the security provided by U.S. and other donors' food assistance." Although a 1976 Senate report recommended that food aid to Bangladesh be phased out over the following five years, aid to Bangladesh continues.

This is an excerpt from an article written by David B. Kopel, a Denver lawyer and author, which was originally published in the April 7, 1986 edition of New York Newsday. The excerpt is reprinted with the author's permission. Kopel, who lived in Brooklyn at the time, was a campus organizer for Oxfam America at Brown University. He has also written several articles debunking gun control myths.

Questioning Authority Free Media, Free Minds IV

New York City

October 27-29, 1989

First time in New York since 1985!

East Coast Libertarian Conference of the Year!

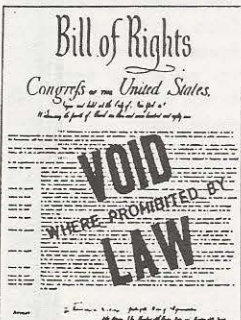
Fourth national FPA conference on First Amendment frontiers and civil liberties controversies

Attend the FPA's fourth national conference and eighth annual Mencken Awards banquet, cosponsored by the National Coalition Against Censorship, Laissez Faire Books and the Long Island University journalism department.

Sponsored by the Free Press Association, a national network of journalists and First Amendment absolutists.

TOPICS: Bush-league Censorship in the 'Kinder, Gentler' 90s. Media Sensationalism and the War on Drugs. TV's New Thought Police: A Broadcasting Industry Forum. Two Cocktail Parties. Exhibit tables. Plus, panels on Media Coverage of Minority Issues, Foreign Affairs and the Economy.

Jonathan Kwitny ("Endless Enemies," "Crimes of Patriots") on "The Perils of Questioning Authority: How My Mencken Finalist Book Was Suppressed by the Foreign Policy Establishment." Black economist Walter Williams on "What the Media Miss About South Africa." And more!



Conference speakers:

- Doug Bandow (Syndicated columnist)
 - "Joe Bob Briggs" (Movie Channel humorist, drive-in critic)
 - Peter Brimelow (Forbes senior editor)
 - Dennis Cauchon (USA Today financial reporter)
 - Robert Corn-Revere (1st Amendment attorney)
 - Donna Demac ("Liberty Denied: Rise of Censorship in America")
 - John Fund (Wall Street Journal editorialist)
 - John Kamp (FCC public affairs director)
 - Jonathon Kwitny (PBS "Kwitny Report" show)
 - Charles Levandosky ('88 Mencken-winning editorial editor)
 - Aryeh Neter (former ACLU National Director)
 - Russ Smith (New York Press editor/publisher)
 - Walter Williams ("The State Against Blacks")
- Plus more speakers and topics to be announced!

All events will take place in the Library Learning Center on the Downtown Brooklyn campus of Long Island University, just minutes from Manhattan.

Registrations: Conference and banquet: \$75. Conference only: \$50. Banquet only: \$50. Students: \$20 (no meal). Advance discounts available! Take \$10 off for registrations before Sept. 1, or \$5 off before Oct. 1. Register now! Make checks to Free Press Association. For more information, write FPA, Box 15548, Columbus, OH 43215. Or call 614-236-1908.

**Libertarian
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seeks work with
rational
publication.
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Advertising rates for the CLiPboard:

\$4 per column inch or \$2 per half-column inch. This box, for example, would cost \$5. Pre-printed inserts cost 10 cents each, or seven cents each if stuffing labor is provided. A quarter-page is \$20; a half-page is \$40 and a full page is \$75. Mail copy and pre-payment to CLP HQ, CLiPboard Ads, 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, 80203.

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TABOR petitioning resumes

Colorado Springs tax activist Douglas Bruce, with the optimistic statement "We are back!" has begun petitioning for access to the 1990 state ballot for the second version of his Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR II.

Noting that the original TABOR/Amendment Six proposal garnered 42 percent of the statewide vote, Bruce stated that TABOR II covers "all the sincere *and* phony criticism of Amendment Six," dropping the rollback of the 1987 income tax hike because it was "too long ago" as well as the two-thirds majority vote needed to go into public debt, which was "distorted into a claimed two-thirds vote for everything."

Petitioners are needed now to secure the needed signatures to gain ballot access, so that the time nearer the election can be spent raising money and campaigning for the amendment's passage. Bruce expects the 1990 battle over taxes in Colorado to once more be waged on television and in the newspapers, and says "we must raise \$250,000-plus to air our side." In 1988, TABOR only raised \$30,000 in cash donations.

Send donations, pledges to petition or otherwise volunteer to: TABOR Committee, Box 26018, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80936. TABOR Treasurer Clyde Harkins can be reached by telephone at (303) 420-5866. We've got the fat-cat bureaucrats worried -- let's keep the pressure on!

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