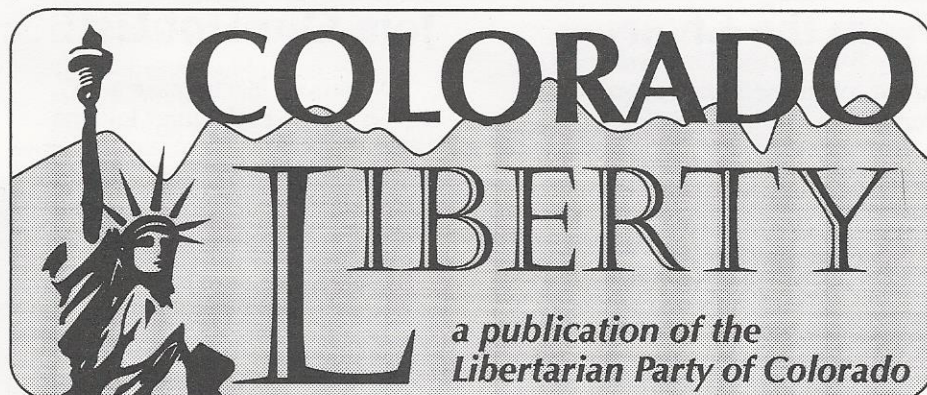


In This Issue

- *Check Your Label* (page 2)
- *Letters* (page 4)
- *The John Voss Story* (page 5)
- *Dear Uncle Roy, Continued* (page 8)
- *Business As Usual* (page 10)



Volume XIX, Number 3
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

March, 1998

Colorado Springs Libertarian Wins Decency Case in Supreme Court

By Barry S. Fagin



In December of 1995, when it became clear that the Telecommunications Reform Act was going to become law, my wife, Michele, and I were very concerned about portions of it relating to internet content. Elements of the religious right had managed to insert a couple of sections mandating criminal punishments for anyone making "indecent" material "in any way available" to minors. This was being done in the name of protecting the family, because of course we're too incompetent to protect ourselves.

We thought it would be useful to talk with other families who felt as we do: that if you understood the net and you understood parenting, this law was a horrible idea. I sent out a couple of postings to some of the alt. newsgroups, expecting a few responses. We were deluged with email, and decided that maybe we had an opportunity to do something more.

I thought a web site would be a good idea, one where people could see the names of families who were opposed to internet censorship, and

could at their option provide hyperlinks to their own personal statements about parenting, the internet, and censorship. We put it together with our ISP, and called ourselves "Families Against Internet Censorship". We thought that would be pretty much the extent of our efforts, but things got a lot more interesting.

A month or so later, I got a phone call from the chief counsel for America Online. He had seen my original post, and wanted to know if we were interested in joining a plaintiff's group to challenge the law, now known as the Communications Decency Act. I must have hesitated for at least a millisecond before saying yes.

Becoming a plaintiff in a constitutional challenge really changed the level of visibility we had. Suddenly, the national media were interested. We were flown to Washington and gave a briefing at the National Press Club on the day we filed suit. My wife flew to Philadelphia and met with the press when the case was initially argued at the district/appellate level (where we won) and then we both went to Washington last March to hear the case argued in the Supreme Court. We've been on ABC and NBC News, Good Morning America, and MSNBC, where I debated a representative from the Family Research Council. We were also able to place op-eds and/or quotes in several national papers, including the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. In

general, the press was very favorable (they tend to be pretty good on First Amendment issues). The web site served its purpose well; we got tons of hits and saw our member families repeatedly quoted in print.

As everyone knows by now, the Communications Decency Act was found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last July. The opinion was unanimous, and a resounding victory for limited government. However, the battle is far from over. Other attempts at internet content regulation are working their way through Congress. That's why our web site is still active. Please visit us at <http://www.rmi.net/~fagin/faic>. If you have children at home and an email address (email: faic@rmi.net), we'd love to have you join us. We're in this for the long haul.

Barry Fagin is Associate Professor of Computer Science at the United States Air Force Academy and is also the moderator of Libernet, a national libertarian mailing list run on Prodigy. Colorado LP members might be interested in it. Point your browser to http://goodstuff.prodigy.com/Mailing_Lists/subscr01.htm and follow the instructions.



From the Chair

Are you really serious? Are you really committed to Libertarian ideals? Do you want to vote for a Libertarian ticket at the next election?

The Top 3 Things YOU Can Do NOW To Make A Difference!

It's great if you're a registered Libertarian — but that's only a first step. If you are serious about wanting changes for more liberty, I urge you to take these actions now:

1. Call your Colorado Senator and implore him or her to vote for HB-98-1110 (the Minor Political Party Ballot Access bill). This is the MOST crucial bill for the future of the LP. It means no more petitioning to get Libertarian candidates on the ballot! It will allow freedom of expression and bring new ideas to the forefront. See page 5 for details.

2. Run for the Colorado House of Representatives as a Libertarian. Or recommend another Libertarian who might be a good candidate. Or help run a campaign. Or help fund a campaign. (Call Doug Anderson for advice at 303-698-2651.)

3. Join the Libertarian Party! It's easy: see the back page. There are 2112 of you who are registered Libertarians yet pay no dues. We need your help to grow the Party!

THANK YOU!

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson, Chair, LPCO

P.S. A giant thank you to all of you who already pay dues and are actively supporting our many activities! If I sound like a broken record it is only because I'm hoping this plea will get some of our passive members involved.

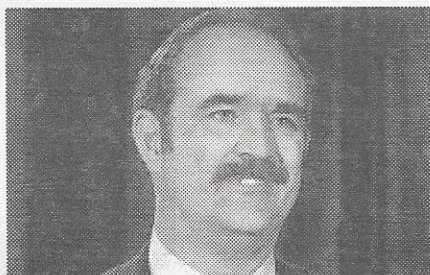
P.P.S. There are many opportunities to get involved. Join us for the best ever 1998 Libertarian Convention (April 24-26), and consider a board position, all of which are up for election Sunday at 11:00 AM.

Join Our Hot List!

Would you like to make a BIG impact on the Legislature? Join the Libertarian e-mail list to stay on top of all the action. Please send your e-mail address to DeronD@netlords.com and ask to be added to the Libertarian hot list.

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

— *Popular Mechanics*, forecasting the march of science, 1949



David Nolan, Keynote, April 24-26 Colorado Libertarian Party Convention

Is This For You?

by David Aitken

Please check your mailing label! If it doesn't say "SENATE DIST xx" on it, then this article's for you. I tried to put senate district numbers on the labels so you could call your senator and ask him/her to support our ballot access bill, but some labels don't have a # because I couldn't match your name to the voter registration file.

That could mean one of two things — either you aren't registered to vote as a Libertarian, or you've moved since we got the voter registration file last fall.

You could help the party immensely by updating your voter registration with your new address or by changing your registration to Libertarian.

Please call your county clerk or elections office to get a voter registration form, check "other" in box 12, write "Libertarian" on the line below, then mail it back to your county clerk. This helps the party by showing everyone we're a growing organization, and allows you free access to the business meetings at the state convention where we elect officers and select our candidates for the fall elections.

Thanks for doing your part!

Denver Potluck on the 14th

by David Aitken

Denver's monthly potluck will move to the 2nd Saturday starting this month. It's at 7pm on March 14th at the home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4 in Denver's Capitol Hill area. Call 303-831-4334 for directions.

Our weekly breakfast groups are proving ever more popular. An even dozen people showed up on February 14th at LePeep, Colorado Blvd and Mexico. Join us every week at 8am for good food and great conversation with some really good folks — libertarians.

If you live in Denver County, it looks like we'll be running 5 or more candidates for the state legislature. All of our more than 350 registered Libertarians will have the opportunity to create a more libertarian community by assisting a Libertarian candidate with yard signs, block parties, or collecting a few signatures from neighbors to get your candidate on the ballot! Call David Aitken at 303-831-4334 or Warren Kruse at 303-433-4604 for more information.

Our Organization Is Unique

By David Aitken

Guess what! I found out who was responsible for creating the general structure of the LP of Colorado's board of directors. Our structure is fairly unique among state parties — it's organized around functional positions (we elect people to do a real job, not represent an area). This structure was started by a very charming woman, ML Hanson, who recognized its benefits back in the early '80s or late 70's. Thank you, ML, for providing us with some of the tools needed to create the strong party we have!

"Al, my dear Hari, you still have a mathist's myopia. History is determined not by what people think, but what they feel."

— Emperor Cleon I in
Foundation's Fear by Gregory Benford

Calendar

March, 1998

- 3/3 - Tue - Ft. Collins 1st Tuesday Breakfast Club - 7:00am - Tony's, 224 S. College, Pat Hartman (970) 224-3116
- 3/3 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/4 - Wed - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00, call for directions.
- 3/5 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm - Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th. Ave., Lakewood, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 3/7 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 3/10 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/11 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/14 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 3/14 - Sat - Denver Potluck Supper - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks, plates, and utensils will be provided. If you don't have any ideas for what to bring, check the deli in your local supermarket.
- 3/16 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 3/17 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/21 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico

and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

- 3/24 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 3/28 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 3/31 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.

April, 1998

- 4/24-26 - Fri/Sat - LPCO State Convention - Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Blvd

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Kudos

- Estephanie Pike, Stuart Barr, Warren Kruse, Robin Sharp, Jim Misa, Doug Anderson, Bette Rose Smith, David Aitken and David Bryant for helping to mail out the February *Liberty*.
- Kudos? More like a week of Coups. Colorado saw and heard Libertarians everywhere! First, Larry Hoffenberg's brilliant press release calling for Gov. Romer's resignation caused a stir on talk radio — Marty Nalitz awakened Sandy Johnson at 6:30 am Feb. 10. Then Larry spoke on the Paul Richards Show in Colorado Springs. The Ch. 7 and Ch 9 TV News on Feb 11 led with our Legislative Director, Judd Ptak, demeaning the stadium tax, followed by our Fundraising Director, Bette Rose Smith doing the same! They made two newspapers as well!
- Kathy Romack, who is working with Bob Jahelka and the Libertarians in State House district #56 to locate a candidate for that district.
- Kudos to a very hard-working group turning young people in Glendale into registered voters and getting them interested in fighting some local outrages. Key players include: Bette Rose Smith, Michele Bethke, Debbie Mathews, David Aitken, David Bryant and Bert Weiner.

- Michael Simpson, who is working with local activists Carol Hill, Tom Peckham and Chris Shepard to try to locate a candidate in House district #61.
- Tom Goonan, who's agreed to push the Jefferson county Libertarians toward getting candidates for '98. He is also stirring the pot with John Sabal of Summit county to run for State House district #62, which spans both Jefferson and Summit counties.
- Brent Shroyer, who is taking on the huge NW corner of the state, house district # 57, again trying to locate a candidate for State House.
- Thanks to these hard workers for putting out Bette Rose's letter: David Bryant, Michele Bethke, Deb Bishop, Stuart Barr and Jim Misa.

Colorado Liberty

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Colophon:

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Letters

Editor:

Firstly let me say that I'm a big fan of Colorado Liberty. I look forward to every issue. Without a forum to exchange ideas and news, we would accomplish little as a political party.

I must confess though that I am sometimes disappointed when I read Libertarian literature. I would like to suggest to my fellow Libertarians that we address some PR problems of our party. The reality: many Americans perceive Libertarians to be anti-government nuts. This problem is not going to go away by itself. In particular, the Libertarian philosophy on taxation leaves many Americans cold.

The spirit of democracy is the spirit of common ground, and I think that we would all be well served to emphasize some of the common ground between Libertarianism and the political thoughts of the average American. I think there is a lot more of it than we normally notice.

The classic Libertarian thought on taxes is that it is theft. This is not what most Americans see. Most Americans (including myself and probably most of C.L.'s readers) don't mind paying for our governmental services. I want a fire department, police force, and health inspectors for the restaurants I eat at. Almost every American will agree with that much, but of course our government has gone far beyond providing those services.

It's clear, however, that arguments over who should spend what obscure the fact that the American system of taxation is largely voluntary. Businesses, banks, citizens, and legal residents all cooperate to pay taxes, and to the extent that a citizen believes her money to be well spent, taxation cannot really be called theft. Indeed even the original constitution of 1789 provided for taxation by the federal government. The income tax was added to the constitution by amendment and enjoys the support of most Americans.

What most people object to is not taxation per se, but taxation without adequate representation. I don't mind paying a 1% tax to the city I live in, but I sure object paying 35% taxes to the feds. I can manage to see and speak to even the highest people in my city government. I can't even get through on the phone to anyone important in Washington D.C. If I

don't like the local taxes, I can move, but even if you live in China, the feds still demand their taxes.

So let's not rail against all taxes as theft, which simply sounds unreasonable. Let's talk about taxation without representation. I suggest that we should campaign not for an end to the income tax, or an end to taxation, but for a redirection of taxation to local sources. This is something most Americans can agree with. This would require a lowering of income taxes (always popular) without the doing away of income taxes.

One advantage of the Republicrats is that they don't have to present any sort of idealized vision. They are not working to change things, but to keep them very much the same. Their message is accordingly familiar and comfortable. The Libertarian message of a society of self-governing adults sounds more frightening. Let's find some intermediate goals that we can sell to the public without including the entire Libertarian package. Far from selling out our ideals, this would help them gain a fair hearing.

In this letter I've only mentioned some of the common ground between a Libertarian and mainstream America. There is much more! Libertarian philosophy contains many populist ideas on campaign finance, the drug war, gun control, and our growing Big Brother, the federal government. I think it would be a great idea if our candidates highlighted these issues, and downplayed less popular planks in the party platform. I don't think anyone need be dishonest about their beliefs. I just think we should pick the low-hanging political fruit first.

Sincerely,
Ed Hartnett
Nederland

Editor:

I really enjoy reading the newsletter each month. You do a fine job and the information keeps me involved.

It occurs to me that since I have online access — and I bet many of our members have access — the party could save some money by not mailing. Any member willing to forgo the actual paper could read the virtual one. You could e-mail a note to anyone on the list that an update has been entered. We would actually receive the news earlier.

My other idea is to get members to contribute ideas to this site that would aid in lessening traffic congestion. Since we are getting credit for sinking "Guide the Ride," we should come up with some real and libertarian solutions. By getting input from members we could show how free people can find solutions without having them handed down from above.

I'll start the list, since it was my idea:

1. Turn HOV lanes into pay-per-drive. A sticker or sensor could be purchased to allow access. The hard part would be setting the price to insure enough people would use them, but not so many that it becomes worthless.

2. Stop building everything downtown.

3. Full tax credit for companies buying transportation (buses, vans) for their employees. This would only be effective until the time we eliminate corporate taxes.

4. Partial tax credit for companies turning downtown buildings into affordable housing. Especially office buildings.

5. Partial tax credit for companies buying equipment to allow employees to work at home. As you can see, some of the ideas may involve improving flow of traffic, while others may decrease the amount of traffic. By collecting these ideas and promoting the better ones, we can move the debate from what we are against toward what we are for.

A servant to liberty,
Richard A. Roeder
rrnd19@mail.idt.net

A Seasonal Stadium Ditty by A. Non

Jolly old St Nicholas,
Lend your ear this way,
Pat Bowlen wants a stadium,
And he wants us to pay.

The Guv says this is very good,
The Mayor says Hooray,
The taxpayer, she doesn't count,
And she's the one to pay.

But thanks to Douglas of the Bruce,
The taxnumbed shall have say,
And at the next election
we'll soundly vote NO WAY!

HB-98-1110 Still Needs Your Support

By Judd Ptak

HB-98-1110 has still not passed the Colorado State Senate. Please call your State Senator now. We can pass this bill. If we do, it will save us many thousands of hours of petitioning. We will use the time and energy saved to concentrate on getting out the good news of the restoration of liberty in Colorado.

Your district number is on the label of this Colorado Liberty (if not, see David Aitken's article on page 2). Call your Senator now and request a vote for HB-98-1110, the Minor Political Party Ballot Access bill.

Dist.	Name	Phone
S01	Don Ament	866-4877
S02	James Rizzuto	866-2587
S03	Bill Thiebaut	866-4878
S04	Ken Chlouber	866-4869
S05	Ginette Gigi Dennis	866-4871
S06	Ben Alexander	866-4884
S07	Tilman M. Bishop	866-3077
S08	Dave Wattenberg	866-5292
S09	Charles Duke	866-4835
S10	Ray Powers	866-4845
S11	Jeffrey Wells	866-3341
S12	Maryanne Tebedo	866-4880
S13	Sally Hopper	866-4873
S14	Peggy Reeves	866-4841
S15	Stan Matsunaka	866-4853
S16	Tom Norton	866-3342
S17	Terry Phillips	866-5291
S18	Dorothy Rupert	866-4872
S19	Jim Congrove	866-4840
S20	Ed Perlmutter	866-4856
S21	Michael Feeley	866-2318
S22	Bill Schroeder	866-4859
S23	Ken Arnold	866-4876
S24	Joan Johnson	866-4863
S25	Bob Martinez	866-4855
S26	Tom Blickensderfer	866-2587
S27	Mike Coffman	866-4883
S28	Elsie Lacy	866-2587
S29	Frank Weddig	866-4879
S30	Richard Mutzebaugh	866-4881
S31	Doug Linkhart	866-4861
S32	Pat Pascoe	866-4852
S33	Gloria Travis Tanner	866-4864
S34	Rob Hernandez	866-4862
S35	Dottie Wham	866-4875

You can write to your senator at this address: Senator Spendin D. Money, State Capitol, Denver, 80203.

The John Voss Story: Government Out Of Control

by John Voss

Chapter One — Sentencing
I was convicted of criminal contempt of court by a trial jury in May of 1994. At sentencing, Prosecutor Jim Murphy, Assistant U.S. Attorney, surprised me by comparing my actions to those of a current mafia figure! I thought the comparison was ridiculous, of course, but later I realized that his comments were designed to prepare me for, and justify, the sentence that he imposed. The comments would have looked ridiculous on the record had the sentence been the nominal six months of probation that I had expected. (A six-month probated sentence is common for contempt, especially for a first-time conviction such as my own, with no prior conviction.) Apparently the prosecutor was already intimately aware of just how much stronger the sentence was going to be. Following the prosecutor's comments, Federal District Court Judge Jim Carrigan read from his prepared sentencing memorandum that I must serve two years in a minimum security federal prison, and then report to a probation officer for one year of supervised release — a total of three years under the control of the Department of Justice.

The three-year sentence took my breath away. I continued to listen while the judge briefly explained that he had consulted the guidelines of the 1984 Sentencing Act. He pointed out that there was no specific sentence enumerated for contempt; the Act allowed him discretion to sentence in accordance with his own analysis of the nature of the contempt. He had likened my actions to obstruction of justice, a statutory offense carrying a sentence of two years.

This was the first time "obstruction of justice" had been applied to my actions (the phrase was not in the indictment, and the jury had certainly not convicted me of obstruction of justice, nor even been instructed to consider it). I asked the judge (twice) to further explain how the law allowed the application of a sentence that had been established for an

offense other than the offense for which I had been tried and convicted. He chose not to answer my question.

This, then, was the outcome of our trial. Along with the other defendants, we had spent three weeks in the courtroom, tried on a 12-count indictment. The indictment had charged conspiracy, structuring of several financial transactions to avoid the currency transaction reporting laws, and contempt of court—12 counts in all. I wasn't surprised by the verdict. Trying to view the proceedings objectively, I felt throughout the trial that the government utterly failed to establish the conspiracy and structuring charges; the judge even appeared to think so. However, the judge seemed to take a much more active part in the proceedings when the

(continued, second column page 9)

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THE 1998



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SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
THE FOUNDER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY
DAVID NOLAN



Learn how it all started twenty-six years ago. David Nolan returns to Colorado, the birth place of the Libertarian Party, for a very special speaking engagement.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Gene Burns

Nationally syndicated talk show host for over 28 years and professional motivational speaker



Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger

Attorney, Co-founder and Author of the "Future of Freedom Foundation" books



Richard Boddie

Former US Senate candidate, Olympic decathlon athlete and professional motivational speaker

Larry Hoffenberg

Widely published opinions author, technical writer and Colorado's own press release champion



Michael Cloud

Professional speaker, speech writer and author of "The Essence of Political Persuasion" tapes



THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FREEDOM—SEMINARS

THE PARLOR PULITZER

Writing effective letters to the editor.

DO HERMITS GATHER?

How hermits can make a big impact.

IS THERE SEX AFTER ACTIVISM?

What is the price of being an activist?

WHAT IS THE PRICE OF FREE SPEECH?

Creating and taking advantage of press coverage.

IF PRO IS THE OPPOSITE OF CON...

How government is supposed to work really works.

COLD HEARTED CAPITALISTS

What is true human nature.

WILL ALL THE DEFENDANTS RISE

Defending Jury Rights.

GETTING YOUR LABOR'S WORTH

Free market: barter and investment.

RINGING THE TIN CUP

Fundraising and finance reforms.

STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK....

Defending the First Amendment

Pre-Registration Form

SHERATON DENVER WEST HOTEL

360 UNION BLVD. LAKEWOOD, CO

Main Events Schedule

Friday April 24

8:00 PM

Early Registration
& Suite Parties

OR

VICTORY 2000's

Comedy Cabaret

with Tim Slagle

Saturday April 25

10:00AM

Keynote Speaker

12:00PM

Awards Luncheon

6:00PM

Cocktail Party

Banquet and Dance

Sunday April 26

10:00AM

Business Meeting

11:00AM

Elections

2:00PM

Guest Speaker

Closing

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

AFTER 3/15

NAME _____

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Accommodations: To help save you money, we've negotiated a room rate of just \$79 + tax, single/double at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel. Book your reservations directly through the hotel and tell them you are attending the Colorado State Libertarian convention. 1-800-325-3535 or local calls: 303-987-2000.

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VICTORY 2000

GRASS ROOTS & CAMPAIGNS WORKSHOP

Richard Boddie

Hon. Don Gorman

Former member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives

Hon. Bonnie Flickinger

Former mayor and current city council member of Marino Valley, California

Dear Uncle Roy:

by Judd Ptak, Legislative Director,
LPCO replying to Governor Romer's
State of the State address

Our story so far: Character, Community, Investment.

These are three of the buzzwords Gov. Roy Romer (new nickname: Roy Roamer) used to picture Colorado's government. But Judd marches to a different drummer. Here are some more of his suggestions, continued from last month:

If government is not the answer to our problems, how should we go about solving them? What should the State Legislature be doing during the 1998 Session? Here are a few suggestions:

2) Growth/Transportation: Conventional wisdom says that our strong economy has given us the twin problems of growth and congested transportation systems. Actually, the economy has merely exacerbated problems which government itself has caused. Our system of multiple subsidies encourages behaviors which lead to urban sprawl, air pollution, and congested highways. The way to deal with the problems of growth and transportation is not more money, not more subsidies and regulations, but less. When we stop mandating that people live in huge homes, far from where they work, shop and play, we will see that accommodating our residents, both present and future, will put far less strain on our environmental and economic resources. When we stop subsidizing roads, many people will make different choices about where to live and how to get where they need to go. Let's start by just saying "NO" to more subsidies for both highway construction and mass transit. The Legislature should deregulate all transit systems, and require that all future improvements to state highways be privately funded and privately owned or leased. For example, if we need to widen a four lane highway to 6 lanes, the additional lanes should be constructed and operated by private companies as toll roads, similar to the "HOT" lanes being constructed in parts of

California. These would have better safety equipment, including the "Smart Highway" technology currently being tested. They would have higher speed limits, and would be open to anyone paying the toll. Some investors might opt to put in a private, unsubsidized mass transit system. The government should sell or lease the Right-of-Way to the highest bidder, regardless of whether the proposal is for improved highways, Personal Rapid Transit Systems, Commuter Rail or Trolley Cars. On the Land Use side, new development must be required to provide and pay for all of the roads both in the development, and leading to it. All utilities, electrical, water, sewer, fire protection and telecommunications must be provided privately, not by government-owned and -regulated utilities.

The Jury was never intended to be a mere fact finding machine.

There is no mystery why recent development has not paid its own way: our laws require that developers accept subsidies. If we are serious about development paying its own way, we need to desocialize our society. Prescriptive zoning codes which segregate different uses need to be abolished. These only result in sterile subdivisions and long commutes to work, shopping and entertainment which increase pollution, sprawl and crime. Initiatives to control growth like the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) Vision 2020 are doomed to failure not only by the lack of an implementation plan, but by the policies advocated by their loudest boosters. For a growth boundary to work, our core cities need to densify. But as soon as one city refuses to accept its fair share of

new growth, the agreements will fall apart.

- 3) Crime/Prisons: The United States already has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. The main reason is we are locking people up for "crimes" which have no victim. When we eliminate the people who are in prison for nonviolent drug violations, we do not need any more prisons. Two Colorado judges have written in the last few months that the drug war is unwinnable and counter productive. It is time for the Legislature and the Governor to face up to the fact that prohibition does not work. The legislature should repeal all laws concerning victimless "crimes" (including all drug laws) and the Governor should immediately pardon everyone serving time for such a crime.
- 4) Jury Rights: If we want to restore faith in our criminal justice system, we need to return juries to their rightful role. The Jury was never intended to be a mere fact finding machine. Since the signing of the Magna Carta, and in America at least since the trial of John Peter Zenger, the role of the jury has been to judge both the fact and the law. We can no longer tolerate judges who lie to jurors and persecute them when they do not cooperate with the judge's quest for convictions at all costs. To restore faith in our institutions, we must remember that juries have the unreviewable right and duty to judge both the fact and the law at question in a criminal case and to bring in a verdict according to their conscience. We must require that judges allow attorneys to present

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arguments on the validity of the law to juries with no threat of reprisal. A mistrial must result if the judge fails to allow such arguments.

- 5) Education: The education required to compete in today's world cannot be acquired when politics rules the education establishment. Just as our Founding Fathers recognized the need to separate Church and State for freedom to survive, it is time for us to separate School and State. A free society, with a healthy economy and healthy communities, cannot tolerate a second-rate education system. The answer is not more money, it is complete desocialization of our educational establishment. The way to start is with a tuition tax credit, with a rebate option for low income families. The credit should not be limited to parents, but to anyone who provides for a child's education, either directly or through donations to scholarship programs or endowment funds.
- 6) Campaign Reform: Limits on campaign spending will never restore confidence in our political system. In fact, all the well-meaning proposals we have seen so far are really nothing more than incumbent protection acts. Getting big money out of politics may be a laudable goal, but the only way to accomplish it is to eliminate the ability of government to dole out favors. If politicians can award a contract worth \$1,000 dollars in profit, there is up to \$999 dollars available for campaign donation, legal or otherwise. When we eliminate the multitude of subsidies, we will see the big money disappear from politics. Reforming politics also means eliminating the extra barriers the old parties have erected to participation by independents and new parties. Reasonable ballot access requirements need to replace the exclusionary policies in place today.

Judd Ptak is Legislative Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible." —Lord Kelvin, president, Royal Society, 1895

The John Voss Story

(continued from page 5)

prosecution got around to the contempt charge. As I saw it, the judge essentially denied our defense on this count, and then later essentially instructed the jury to convict. And so, after 15 years of involvement with an association of Americans whose objectives were reform of the monetary and taxation systems of the nation, I now faced the prospect of a two-year imprisonment. An appeal was filed, but the verdict and sentencing were upheld. *U.S. v. Voss, et al*, 82 F.3d 1521 (10th Cir., 1996). On August 30, 1996, I reported as ordered to the minimum security federal prison camp near Florence, Colorado.

We'll continue John's story in next month's Liberty.

Business As Usual

(continued from page 10)

single mistress, thus allowing him to blithely claim no involvement in "an affair" — is inherently derogatory to the dignity of women and the very act in question.

The bottom line is this: The American people do not want more wealth redistribution, higher taxes, or a larger or more powerful government, systematically taking away our guns so we cannot object as they vastly expand their capacity to track each individual and his money.

That is socialism. Perhaps, in the 1840s, the fledgling communists could be excused for hoping such a plan would bring "social justice." But 150 years later, Communism (or Socialism, or Economic Justice, it's all the same) has devolved into fenced and enervated starvation camps with such regularity — in all climes, in lands with every type of population stock and resource base — that no one can any longer pretend not to know this "system's" fatal flaw.

Socialism proposes that if we will lift just a tiny bit of the assets of the wealthiest, and redistribute them to the poorest, the world will be better and more "fair."

But once we have accepted the principle of redistribution at gunpoint (for of course, the rich cannot be allowed to NOT "contribute"), the line of those with "needs" always grows

longer than anticipated, by a factor of tens and then hundreds.

It's all very well that the government paid to set my nephew's broken leg when my brother was out of work, thank you very much. But now I want them to pay for my son's braces, too. Is it "fair" that he should grow up with crooked teeth, just because we're not rich? asks the fellow who spent more on his boat last summer than the braces will cost.

Well of course it is not "fair." And so the government loots the income not just of the top 2 percent, but now the top 10 percent, and next the top 60 percent. The orthodontists at first welcome the increased business, but as the lines grow longer, even Uncle Sam can't keep up, and so the men with the guns simply tell the orthodontist he will now accept 30 cents on the dollar on his bills, and if he tries to go back to practicing for cash they'll throw him in jail. Slavery for all, and all in the name of "fairness."

That's the program, and when you hire someone to put over such a program on the American people against their wishes, you must hire a very clever liar — a smiling, jovial, likeable liar with no conscience to speak of, one who will lie about anything, any time, just for practice, as automatically as he pulls on his trousers (or lets them fall).

That is what they ordered up, and that is just what they now have got.

But it's so embarrassing when your creature lurches out of control, isn't it?

Time for a new boss ... just like the old boss.

Vin Suprynowicz is the assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Readers may contact him via e-mail at vin@lvjr.com. The web site for the Suprynowicz column is at <http://www.nguworld.com/vindex/>. The column is syndicated in the United States and Canada via Mountain Media Syndications, P.O. Box 4422, Las Vegas Nev. 89127.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." —Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre

Business as usual

By Vin Suprynowicz

Why is independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr suddenly finding his second wind in his probe of President Bill Clinton, based on the growing pile of evidence that the president may have had a sexual relationship with pretty 21-year-old aide Monica Lewinsky?

After all, Clinton has admitted "causing pain to his marriage" in the past (whatever that means, exactly.) So, who cares if there have been a few more young women in the president's lap?

The answer lies not so much in the alleged affair as in the routine, business-as-usual way in which Mr. Clinton, his staff, and especially chief White House clean-up man Vernon Jordan appear to have dealt with the perceived "problem" — almost as though they have covered up the truth so often in the past that the game plan has now become second nature.

Sensing that young Ms. Lewinsky was "too close" to the president to remain during the 1996 campaign, Mr. Jordan and others smoothly shifted her to a high-paying job at the Pentagon ... though it appears the young woman still visited the West Wing of the White House in the months that followed.

Looking to move her even further afield, Mr. Jordan then introduced Ms. Lewinsky to MacAndrews & Forbes, the firm which owns Revlon, where she was indeed offered a New York public relations job — an offer quickly withdrawn when the current scandal broke on Jan. 21.

Hmm. Isn't that one of the firms — with Mr. Jordan sitting on the board of directors — from which the White House arranged Whitewater defendant Webster Hubbell to receive some lucrative billings when he was released from jail — raising questions as to whether the White House was paying off a potentially dangerous Whitewater co-conspirator with "hush money"?

Surely even prosecutor Starr can start to see here patterns of cover-up behavior long alleged in other cases, but now, finally, witnessed and documented.

All involved contend these special considerations for Ms. Lewinsky were simply because of her "reputation as a hard worker."

Really? This couldn't be the gal, then, who once asked reporters not to ask an assistant secretary of state so many questions, because it would be her job to transcribe the interview later, and "I'm not that good a typist"?

The standard evasion program has now been activated. Asked whether he had an affair, the president replies "There is no relationship," cleverly shifting to the present tense.

What has changed in Washington, today, appears to be the patience of the public and press with such lawyerly evasions.

In the past, Mr. Clinton was actually admired, by some, for this facility. They knew he was lying when he said he would "end welfare as we know it," that he would enact a "middle class tax cut," that he would make sure "the era of big government is over."

But many — particularly in the New York and Washington-based news media — were perfectly happy with the Clintons' real agenda (an enormous further expansion of the Roosevelt-Johnson welfare state, a complete government takeover of health care, etc.) So, they merely winked knowingly.

But left to eat and exercise freely, such a monster of

mendacity was bound to grow ever more bold and embarrassing.

Now, the White House is busily trying to dig up (and leak to its press minions) some dirt on Ms. Lewinsky — did she once have sex with a college professor? Or, perhaps, did she claim to have had sex with him, when she had not?

But wait a minute: Why dig up dirt to challenge the credibility of a young woman who, so far, has sworn on her oath she did NOT have an affair with the president?

Clearly, because the White House expects her to change her story, to wilt under the threat of prosecution for perjury.

And so we have the spectacle of a White House preparing to challenge the credibility of a young woman who so far has said exactly what the White House has wanted her to say, based on the fact they must be prepared to brand her a *liar*, if and when she breaks down and starts telling the *truth*.

What do good feminists have to say about this still-lengthening chain of young women, their careers and reputations and dignity thrown to the dogs to protect that great champion of the political rights of women (or, at least, quotas for lesbians), Bill Clinton?

Barely a word, of course. For even the underlying excuse — that having a succession of women satisfy the president's sexual urges in brief and casual encounters is somehow "better" than a more traditional and meaningful liaison with a

(continued, second column page 9)

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