



Colorado Liberty

Colorado Springs Seeks Registration of Gold Sales

by Patrick L. Lilly

Ever-vigilant against the possibility of individuals enjoying too much privacy in their own self-interest, the city government in Colorado Springs is currently trying to crack down on the anonymous buying and selling of precious metals.

Basing their appeal on tales of easily-fenced stolen silverware (tales that are, no doubt, mostly true), the Springs Police Department is pressing the City Council for a new regulatory ordinance requiring coin shops, pawn shops and the like to keep records of from who they buy and to whom they sell anything containing gold or silver. Proposed versions of the law which have surfaced to date also would forbid the reselling of such items for some fixed period, from three days to as much as a month.

Anyone trying to accumulate gold and/or silver as protection against collapse of the dollar economy should be concerned. A law like this on the books would make it impossible to acquire precious metals legally and anonymously. It would mean that the police would be in possession of a comprehensive list of those individuals in a given city who had bought and not resold silver coins and the like. When and if the government decides to ban private ownership of precious metals again (a real possibility) to prevent people from opting out of the paper economy, these lists would make systematic confiscation of

metals pitifully easy, just as gun registration lists have long been feared by gun owners as an expedient for the systematic confiscation of guns.

The original proposal produced a whirlwind of very vocal protest from coin shops, which currently suffer only minimal regulation. Unfortunately, all the protests so far have followed the dismally familiar pattern of complaining about the details, instead of the principles.

To all appearances, the only real objection the shops have is to the length of time they would be required to hold merchandise before resale; they are worried about profit potential in a market where prices change daily. Not one shop owner, though, has had the guts to come out and say that he doesn't want the police prowling through his list of customers at all, even if it doesn't take very long. And not one has attacked the loss of privacy for gold and silver hoarders.

As this is written, no final action has been taken, as the shop owners and police representatives are negotiating in a generally congenial way to find some details they can both agree on. But if it passes in Colorado Springs, the idea seems all too likely to spread. If it does, when the collapse comes, those who have built up a little nest egg of silver coins without taking the extra trouble to do so on the black market are likely to see it vanish, along with their guns, in a midnight raid.

NEWS NOTES

by Dwight Filley and Paul Grant

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY SHORT OF HEROES

One of the top attractions at a recent Socialist Worker's Party rally was Franke Martinez, whose only claim to fame is allegedly mailing a letter bomb to a Denver policewoman.

They say you can judge a man, or a party, by the company it keeps. (RMN 2/23/81)

RENT CONTROL FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE?

A group in Boulder wants to impose rent control, claiming that without it "Boulder is in danger of becoming an elite city." In a refreshingly novel approach to this ghastly threat, the group apparently is far-sighted enough to see that rent control removes incentives for landlords to maintain their apartments. This will create much-needed slums in a town currently dominated by Perrier water and fern bars. In the words of the group, rent control will "preserve Boulder as a town where people of all economic levels can live."

Creative urban planning at its best. (RMN 2/26/81)

REDECORATING THE WHITE HOUSE — LIBERTARIAN STYLE

The new First Lady has disdainfully refused to spend OUR money to redecorate HER new house. Turning down \$50,000 forcefully taken from the people through taxation, she asked for \$200,000 from private contributors. No doubt to the surprise of big government advocates everywhere, she got it — and more. To

BATF MAY HAVE TO GO COLD TURKEY

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), a notorious trampler of citizen's rights, is under the Administration's budget ax. The Bureau might even be dismantled, according to sources within the Office of Management and Budget.

Let's hope. (RMN 2/14/81)

INTEREST-ING TAX PROPOSAL

The Colorado Department of Revenue may get a taste of its own tax medicine if a bill introduced by Rep. Frank DeFilippo, R-Golden, clears the state legislature. DeFilippo is proposing that the infamous department be required to make income tax refunds within 30 days of filing or pay interest on the refund. "If a taxpayer is late getting the money he owes to the government, he is severely penalized," DeFilippo was quoted as saying, "Why shouldn't the state government be penalized for not paying its bills on time?"

(Denver Monthly, March '81)

CREEPING LIBERTARIANISM IN D.C.?

Drew Lewis, Reagan's new Transportation Secretary, came right out and said it: "Had we (the Federal government) not had (automobile fuel efficiency) regulations, they (the auto industry) probably would have done it (achieved 30-50 MPG fleet averages) long before this, if the government had stayed out of it." He went on to express satisfaction with current levels of government spending on auto safety and saw no need for more. To

Mohn Sent to Prison

Mohn Sent to Prison After Overpaying Taxes

"I don't want to be a tax collector," libertarian Stormy Mohn tells the U.S. Supreme Court in his current appeal (ISA vs MOHN). The case questions the constitutionality of the income tax withholding system that forces employers to be tax collectors.

In the first test case (Abney vs. Campbell, 1953) the courts said, "Withholding provisions have now become a familiar part of our system of taxation and can no longer be successfully challenged."

MOHN feels that, "The courts are saying, in effect, that if the government can get away with something that is illegal and do it often enough and long enough, then it's legal — no matter what the constitution states. The fact is, withholding taxes ARE unconstitutional."

Mohn was the officer of a corporation that was \$4,500 delinquent in its withholding responsibilities. The IRS prosecuted him two months *after* all the tax obligations in question had been paid, including interest and three kinds of penalties. Mohn is currently serving a one year federal prison term for his principled

stand against government abuse of the Bill of Rights.

Following his sentencing, the IRS returned \$73.00 to Mohn. There had been an overpayment. Commented Mohn; "I have to be one of the few people in history who was put in prison after over-paying taxes."

Mohn also points out that the withholding tax was an emergency World War II law which was slated to be repealed at the end of the war. "The IRS should not have been allowed to use, let alone abuse, this law after 1945," Mohn stated.

From 1950 until her death, the fighting business lady from Connecticut, Vivian Kellams, challenged this very law. The government, knowing it could not withstand a direct legal challenge, avoided the case. As a government official once commented, "The IRS could not figure out how to constitutionally defend the withholding tax."

Mohn feels that his appeal to the Supreme Court is a renewed and necessary challenge to the legality of the withholding tax; a challenge which millions of tax-burdened, inflation-riddled Americans can now identify with and champion. It is Mohn's hope that the Supreme Court will recognize, not only his appeal, but that of millions of American citizens who are forced into involuntary servitude to collect taxes for the government.

Mohn stated that "Prohibition went the way of legal extinction because the people rejected it. The people are rejecting

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through taxation, she asked for \$200,000 from private contributors. No doubt to the surprise of big government advocates everywhere, she got it — and more. To date, more than \$375,000 has poured in. (RMN 2/12/81)

government had stayed out of it." He went on to express satisfaction with current levels of government spending on auto safety and saw no need for more money.

Not bad, for a bureaucrat. (RMN 3/17/81)

Editorial

Charting a Course for the Future

by David F. Nolan

At the upcoming convention in Fort Collins, CLP members will have the opportunity to review — and, if they choose, revise — our party's state platform and our constitution, by-laws and rules.

The present versions of those documents are printed elsewhere in this issue. If you are planning on attending the convention, you would be well-advised to study them in advance; perhaps you might want to discuss them with other libertarians. If they aren't the way you think they should be, have your thoughts marshalled and your arguments ready. And be prepared to do other members the courtesy of hearing their viewpoints when the time for debate arrives.

Revisions in the constitution, by-laws and rules are likely to center about the structural changes the CLP is undergoing as a result of our growth and the proliferation of viable libertarian action groups around the state. We are moving away from the era of centralized decision-

making and into a time where country organizations will be the key element in our operational framework.

We already have nine or ten fledgeling county organizations, and this number is likely to double within a year. Up until now, the precise relationship between the CLP and county groups has not been clearly defined; this omission must now be rectified.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee — made up of representatives from the current county groups and chaired by Paul Hodgson — is wrestling with the many implications of this change, and will no doubt have some well-thought-out recommendations. But the final decision will rest with the convention delegates. So you might want to ponder a bit on how you feel about such things as proxy voting, the duties and powers of the CLP's board of directors, the manner in which we choose

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THE REAGAN SHOOTING

As long-time readers are well aware, this paper has often pointedly criticized Ronald Reagan for some of his actions and proposals.

No doubt, we will continue to be equally critical in the future; as champions of individual liberty, we can do no less.

Nonetheless, we cannot and will not condone the recent brutal attempt on his life. It was a barbaric and unjustifiable act, antithetical to every libertarian principle; until the use of force is eliminated from human affairs, none of us can truly be free.

So, while we deplore many of President Reagan's policies, we wish him a speedy recovery, and pray that there are no further attempts on his life.

David F. Nolan
Managing Editor

**IMPORTANT
CONVENTION
INFORMATION
INSIDE!**

Colorado Libertarian Party

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Colorado Libertarian Party 1981 Convention Memorial Day Weekend Fort Collins, Colorado

All events will take place at the Fort Collins Ramada Inn, located immediately off Interstate 25 at the Colorado Highway 14 Interchange.

Convention registration forms are available from the Colorado Libertarian Party office, 1041 Cherokee Street, Denver 80204. Phone 573-5229.

Friday, May 22

8:00 p.m. Pre-Registration
Cocktail Party (Cash Bar)
Movie: "Dark Star"

Saturday, May 23

7:00-10:00 Registration
Continental Breakfast
10:00-11:00 Adoption of Convention Rules
11:00-12:00 Constitution & By-Laws
12:00-12:30 Speaker: Lou Witzeman
12:30-2:00 Luncheon Buffet
Jug Band Preview
2:00-5:00 Constitution & By-Laws
2:00-3:00 Seminar: Lou Witzeman
3:30-5:00 Seminar: Gary Carlson
5:00-5:30 Open
5:30-7:00 Dinner Buffet
7:00-8:00 Keynote Speaker: Vernon Brown
8:00-9:30 Debate: David F. Nolan vs. L. Neil Smith
"Steering a Course Between Opportunism and Irrelevance"
Movie: "Anarchists in Old Lace"

Sunday, May 24

7:00-8:00 Continental Breakfast
8:00-10:00 Constitution & By-Laws
8:00-10:00 Candidates' Panel
10:00-10:30 Speaker: Lynn Crussel
10:30-12:30 Platform Debate
10:30-12:30 Seminar: Carl Stone
12:30-2:00 Luncheon Buffet
2:00-5:00 Platform Debate
2:00-3:30 Seminar: Karl Hess, Jr.
5:00-5:30 Open
5:30-7:00 Dinner Buffet
7:00-8:00 Speaker: L. Neil Smith
8:00-9:00 Speaker: Karl Hess
9:00 Costume Party with Jug Band Entertainment

Colorado Libertarian Party Constitution

As revised in Convention, 31 May 1980

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the association shall be the Colorado Libertarian Party, hereinafter referred to as "the Party".

ARTICLE II PURPOSES

The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles, such as those in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, by:

- (a) nominating and running candidates for office in the state of Colorado,
- (b) promoting, chartering and co-ordinating Party affiliates throughout the state of Colorado, and
- (c) entering into political information and educational activities.

ARTICLE III PRINCIPLES

The Party shall take no positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. There shall be five Party Officers, as follows: a State Chair, a Campaigns Director, a Membership Director, a Communications and Education Director, and a Finance Director. The powers and duties of these five Officers shall be as specified in the Party By-Laws.

Section 2. The five Officers shall be elected by a majority of the Party members present and registered at the Annual Convention each year. Each Officer shall be elected individually, on a separate ballot in the order designated in Section 1, and shall serve a term commencing immediately upon adjournment of the Annual Convention and ending at the close of the next Convention. No person not a member of the Party shall be eligible for election. Any Officer may be suspended by a majority vote of the other Directors. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote, appoint new Officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such Officers to serve until the next election by Convention or

Section 5. The rules for each Convention shall be adopted by the Convention as its first order of business. The Board of Directors, or a committee appointed thereby, shall submit proposed rules for initial consideration. A simple majority of those members present shall be sufficient for adoption.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Section 1. Nomination of candidates for offices requiring the vote of all the electors of the state and for U.S. Representative shall be made by a majority vote of the attending Party members at the Annual Convention, or by a committee designated thereby. In the event the Convention has not selected a committee, the Board of Directors shall act as the committee.

Section 2. Nomination of all other candidates shall be made by the Party affiliate representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate may provide.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

In years when there is to be a national Libertarian party convention, Party members in attendance at the Convention shall select delegates and alternates to the national convention. This selection shall follow the procedures set forth in the Party By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX RECOGNITION OF PARTY AFFILIATES

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Party may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent such geographical area as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

Section 2. Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

Section 3. The Board of Directors

Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day)

8:00-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-12:00	Election of Officers National Delegate Selection Convention Evaluation
12:00-1:00	Luncheon Buffet & Farewell

Mohn Sent to Prison

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marijuana and co-habitation laws and staging the largest tax protest in this nation's history. The times are similar to 200 years ago when free people rejected the dictates of an arrogant king. We reject the arbitrary and illegal actions of our U.S. government because we, as they, do not like or believe in oppressive tax laws.

"The IRS legal precedents are weak and invalid. Using the existing court interpretations, politicians, and bureaucrats can enslave all of us to work for any federal agency they choose. Considering the present income tax, social security, cur-

rency inflation, state, local and miscellaneous taxes, the government forces so-called free citizens to give up over 50% of their income. It is subtle — but it is slavery; a slavery caused mainly by the withholding tax system. For this republic to survive, the withholding tax law must be declared unconstitutional, be repealed and this system of involuntary servitude destroyed."

Stormy is 35, single, and was a 1980 libertarian candidate for state representative. He received a higher percentage of votes than any other Colorado third party candidate.

Colorado Libertarian Calendar

1st and 3rd Wednesday every month: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver, 573-5229.

2nd Wednesday every month: CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m., Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver. Relaxed, informal. Cash bar.

4th Wednesday every month: CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver.

1st Wednesday every month: Boulder County Libertarian Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Federal Savings Building, 1913 Broadway, Boulder.

- Apr. 8** CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 15** Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Education".
- Apr. 22** CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 6** Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Unions and Boycotts".
- May 13** CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.
- May 20** Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Hazardous Wastes".
- May 23-25** State Convention, Fort Collins.
- May 30-31** Capital Hill People's Fair. Visit the CLP booth.
- June 3** Discussion group, 7:30 p.m.
- June 10** CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.

Note: A new Board of Directors will be meeting in June. Call the headquarters, 573-5229, for time and location.

vote, appoint new Officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such Officers to serve until the next election by Convention or until suspension is revoked, whichever is applicable.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the five Party Officers as voting members, plus such non-voting members as the Party Officers may appoint. The State Chair, as chief Party Officer, shall preside at Board of Directors meetings.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution and shall meet in the manner specified in the Party By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The Party shall hold a Convention during the second quarter of each calendar year, at which time the Officers of the Party, as specified in Article IV, shall be elected, the Party Platform may be revised, and the Constitution and By-Laws may be amended.

Section 2. In even-numbered years, the Convention shall nominate candidates for state-wide elected positions, U.S. Representative, and if appropriate, U.S. Senator.

Section 3. In years when a Libertarian Party national convention is to be held, the Convention shall elect delegates and alternates to the convention.

Section 4. No registration fee may be required of any Party member in good standing to attend or vote at business sessions of any Party Convention, but reasonable charges may be made for printed materials and for activities which do not involve voting.

BY-LAWS

As revised in Convention, 31 May 1980

ARTICLE I PARTY AFFILIATES

Organizations applying for charter as an affiliate shall make such application on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board of Directors, which petition shall be signed by not less than five (5) Party members.

Party.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have the power to revoke the affiliate status of any organization by a two-thirds vote.

Section 4. Except as provided herein, the autonomy of the affiliates shall not be abridged by the Party.

ARTICLE X MEMBERSHIP

The requirements and standards for membership in the Party shall be set forth in the Party By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI BY-LAWS

Section 1. The By-Laws of the Party shall be approved by majority vote of the members in attendance at the Party's first Annual Convention.

Section 2. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members in attendance at any subsequent Annual Convention.

ARTICLE XII ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance at any Annual Convention.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Constitution and By-Laws Committee prior to each Annual Convention.

ARTICLE XIII PLATFORM

Section 1. The Party shall adopt a Platform stating its position on all significant political issues at each Annual Convention.

Section 2. The existing Platform shall serve as the basis, by amendment, for each subsequent Platform. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Platform Committee prior to each Annual Convention.

ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be

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By-Laws

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delegated by the Board of Directors. The State Chair may appoint such Party functionaries as a recording and corresponding secretary, an office manager, and an events chair.

Section 2. The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and coordinate candidate and issue development. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for and co-ordinate all political campaigns of the Party. The Campaigns Director shall act as Chair in the temporary absence of the State Chair.

Section 3. The Membership Director shall be responsible for recruiting members, maintaining membership records and organizing Party affiliates and shall provide assistance in filling positions other than those of Officers.

Section 4. The Communications and Education Director shall be responsible for news media co-ordination, dissemination of information within and for the Party, developing membership education programs, producing Party position papers and publications and operating a Speakers Bureau.

Section 5. The Finance Director shall be responsible for the budget and expenses associated with the operation of the Party, shall have the primary responsibility for fund raising and shall establish mechanisms and procedures for assisting other Directors in budget preparation. The Finance Director shall also be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Treasury and all Party monies collected and expended. The Finance Director shall act as or appoint a Party Treasurer who shall be responsible to the Finance Director. The Finance Director shall be ac-

countable for the Treasurer's actions in an official Party Capacity.

Section 6. Each Director will be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her area and will provide a written report to be passed on to the next Director. He or she will not incur expenses in any event beyond budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the State Chair, or by written request of one-third or more of the members of the Board. A written notice, unless waived by all members of the Board, of the time and place of each meeting shall be mailed to each member not less than seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. More than one-half of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1. The fiscal term of the Party shall end on the last day of March.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be established and maintained.

ARTICLE V PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of

Libertarian Party Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

procedure not specifically covered by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Party.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The Party secretary shall announce to the Convention body the number of delegates to be selected, as allocated by the national party.

Section 2. Nominations for delegate positions shall be received from the floor

with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves.

Section 3. Each member in attendance at the Convention shall cast a single vote for each delegate candidate of their choice. The total votes cast by each member shall not exceed the number of delegates to be selected. Delegates shall be elected by a simple majority of those voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining delegate positions. In the event that there are more

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Colorado Libertarian Party 1980 Platform

INTRODUCTION

The Libertarian Party, the Party of Principle and the nation's third largest political party, believes that individuals have the right to control their own lives. We believe that individuals should be allowed to live their lives as they choose, so long as they do not interfere by force or fraud with the equal right of others to do the same. We uphold the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our government was instituted to protect these rights, not to violate or regulate them. The continuing growth of government with increasing taxation, regulation, and interference in

As interim measures, we support tax credits for private school tuition, with no restrictions placed on the manner of their use, and repeal of taxes levied against private schools. We support elimination within the State education system of forced busing, forcible administration of drugs, corporal punishment, and compulsory education laws.

ENERGY

A free market in energy will encourage a rational use of resources, conservation through the pricing system, and private development of alternative energy sources. Therefore, we favor

fraud with the equal right of others to do the same. We uphold the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our government was instituted to protect these rights, not to violate or regulate them. The continuing growth of government, with increasing taxation, regulation, and interference in private affairs, is the greatest threat to liberty and peace in our time. In order to restore our lost liberties and the vitality of voluntary and unrestricted enterprise and cooperation we call for:

- (a) drastic reductions in the size and power of government at all levels,
- (b) massive deregulation of the economy, toward a **true** free market system,
- (c) increasing reductions of taxation at all levels, toward an end to taxation, and
- (d) increasing emphasis on individual and property rights:

Because some of our proposals involve an expansion of the private sector into functions now performed by the government, we recognize that some proposals can not be implemented abruptly without causing unnecessary social and economic disruption. However, we believe the process of change should begin immediately. Toward that end, the Libertarian Party of Colorado hereby adopts the following positions on issues of concern to the people of Colorado.

TAXES

We believe that there should be no more government than that which people will finance voluntarily. All taxation is a flagrant violation of the fundamental right of individuals to keep the fruits of their labor. We therefore oppose all forcible collection of money or goods by government.

As a necessary interim measure, we support proposals to impose strict limits on taxation. We further seek to enact mandatory tax reductions and to end requirements that employers and business operators act as tax collectors.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

We advocate strict budget limitations and reductions for all levels of government.

Public funds should not be used to support or oppose any particular party, candidate, or issue.

An economy unfettered and undrained by government will provide ample opportunity for all. Subsidies to special interests forcibly take resources from those who have earned them to reward those favored by government. Therefore, we advocate ending all types of government subsidies.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & PUBLIC SERVICES

We believe that the marketplace provides the best measure of demand for services. Therefore, we oppose tax financing of so-called public services such as water and sewer services, transportation, fire protection, trash collection, and health care facilities. As an interim measure, a system of user fees should be established to more rationally relate the use of services to their costs.

We support the Colorado Sunset Law and urge that it be more effectively utilized. We advocate repeal of all laws creating and protecting government-sanctioned monopolies, and demand an end to all licensing requirements and regulatory activities, because they interfere with the individual's right to enter into voluntary contractual arrangements.

INDIVIDUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Individuals in government should be held personally responsible for their activities that violate the rights of citizens.

ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

So that citizens may express dissatisfaction with the political system, "None of the Above" should appear as a choice in every election. If "None of the Above" wins a plurality, the office for that term will remain unfilled and unfunded.

We favor increased and easier access to the ballot for initiated referenda, political parties, and independent candidates.

EDUCATION

We advocate total separation of education and the State. Government schools interfere with the free choice of individuals and severely limit educational alternatives and progress. The proper solution to our educational ills is a free market in education so that individuals can choose the manner and the language in which they will be educated.

ENERGY

A free market in energy will encourage a rational use of resources, conservation through the pricing system, and private development of alternative energy sources. Therefore, we favor decontrol of prices, deregulation of allocation and production, and elimination of public utility monopolies, and termination of government regulation, taxation, and subsidy.

MASS TRANSIT

Governmental attempts to provide mass transit are costly and grossly inefficient. A free market in transportation will provide options allowing better, more responsive service at reasonable rates. Therefore, we favor unregulated competitive transportation alternatives. Specifically, we recommend transfer to the private sector of all equipment held by the Regional Transportation District.

ENVIRONMENT

The present system of regulation fails to prevent the deterioration of our environment, wastes tax dollars, and arbitrarily limits individual rights. We believe that air, water, wildlife, and other natural resources should be defined in the context of individual property rights. Polluters should be fully responsible for damage caused by their actions. This would create incentives for development of less-polluting, and therefore less costly, technologies.

PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND USE

Land use planning is properly the responsibility and right of the owners of the land. They alone are capable of exercising the adaptability and diversity required in a complex and changing society. We oppose government ownership of land, and laws which restrict the right of private property owners to use and dispose of their property as they see fit. We advocate private operation of parks and preservation of wilderness through privately owned conservancies.

EQUAL RIGHTS

We deny the right of government to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, age, national origin, disabilities, sexual or political preference. Nonetheless, we oppose legislative or judicial attempts to regulate discrimination in private relations and transactions.

ABORTION

We do not believe the State has any right to interfere with a woman's personal choice regarding termination or continuance of a pregnancy. However, we are opposed to taxpayer financing either for abortion or for support of the child.

GUN CONTROL

The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution should be upheld as written: "... the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We call for the repeal of all victimless crime laws, because they are no more than one group's imposition of its moral standards upon the voluntary actions of other consenting adults. Furthermore, we believe that such a repeal would immediately alleviate the inhumane conditions found in jails and prisons, and would allow better protection of citizens and property from violent crimes.

The criminal justice system should be restructured to emphasize restitution by criminals to their victims.

UNIONS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We support the individual's unrestricted right to free contract and voluntary association - including participation or non-participation in a labor union - and oppose the use of government as a tool or weapon in labor relations.

FINAL COMMENTS

As individuals, and as members of the Libertarian Party, we do not necessarily advocate or condone many of the practices our policies would permit.

However, our silence about any particular law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, agency, or activity should never be construed to imply our approval.

For information on other issues of concern, we direct your attention to the current platform of the National Libertarian Party.

Charting a Course

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the board, and requirements for affiliation by county organizations.

There is room for considerable debate on all of these points; there is no one way doing things that is by definition "the right way." The CLP is a voluntary association of individuals banded together for specified mutual endeavors; we make our own rules, and as long as those rules do not involve force or fraud, we can make them on whatever basis we choose.

The question of when, where, and if proxy votes should be allowed (for example) is not one of principle; it is a question of agreed-on frameworks for cooperation. Those who don't like the rules of the association are free to withdraw from participation; this isn't a government! Conversely, they are welcome to stay and fight like hell — if they are willing to play by the rules of the game as long as they're in it.

Questions of principle are intimately involved in the stands we take in our platform, of course . . . along with questions of marketing strategy and political ethics.

Our present platform, adopted last year, was drafted on the premise that the platform is an "outreach" document, aimed at communicating our stands on key issues of present concern, in as brief and easily-understood a fashion as possible. Gale Norton, who chaired the state platform committee last year, is heading up the committee again this year; recommendations for radical change are not likely.

This is not to say that there aren't CLP members who favor radical change. Our previous platform — scrapped by an almost unanimous vote of last year's convention delegates — was very different

from the present version. It was much longer, covered much more ground, and addressed many issues of only peripheral concern to most voters. And there are members of this party — hopefully, a small minority — who would like to go back to that type of platform.

My own belief is that this would be a tragic mistake . . . every bit as much of a mistake as the soft-edged, opportunistic approach to politics exemplified by Ed Crane and his ilk.

I believe that we must always be out-front in our stands on the issues of the day — taxation, the draft, civil liberties, foreign policy, and so forth. We must never shrink from taking the hard-core position and unabashedly explaining the principles underlying that position. Anything else is simply sleazy opportunism, and will eventually destroy the LP as an effective instrument for social change.

However, I do not believe that we must go out of our way to derive every possible offbeat stand that can be derived from our basic principles and make it a part of our platform. Coming out for simian rights and three-year-old suffrage serves only to make us look foolish and irrelevant in the eyes of 99% of the population. And irrelevance will destroy us just as quickly and surely as opportunism.

To synopsise: We must be hard-core on the issues we choose to address, but we do not have to address every conceivable issue on the face of the earth . . . or in space.

That's only my opinion, of course. You'll have an opportunity to hear an opposing viewpoint when Neil Smith and I debate this issue at the state convention. Be there!

From the Chair

by John L. Mason

This will be my last "From the Chair" column. Before the next issue of this paper, Colorado Libertarians will have elected a new slate of officers, including a new State Chair. I am not running for reelection. Not because I won't stay involved. And not because I'm running for

done. And we couldn't have done it without hundreds of Libertarians helping with their time and their dollars. But there is a tremendous potential provided by the progress made in the last two years, and it can best be realized by your involvement — in a leadership capacity.

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*The Tenth Anniversary
Convention
of the
Libertarian Party*

new State Chair. I am not running for re-election. Not because I won't stay involved. And not because I'm running for National Chair — a decision I made long after deciding not to run for re-election. The reason is simple enough: *it is time for new leadership in the Colorado Party.*

The last two years have been ones of great progress for our party in Colorado, and it is time for new people, with new ideas and talents, to build on that progress. I am writing this column to thank everybody who has participated in the last two years for their assistance, encouragement, support, and criticism — and to encourage each of you to consider seriously how you can contribute to the next phase of the Party's growth.

First, let me thank Dave Nolan, Dick Eshelman, M.L. Hanson, Larry Piekenbrock, John Williams, and Craig Green, all of whom have served on the Board during my tenure as State Chair, and Pat Donohue Shortridge, who has for two years been the Party Treasurer. And I want to thank all those who were candidates in 1980 — they made it all worth it. Each accepted significant responsibility, aside from their professional pursuits, and through their efforts and your support, we have achieved a new threshold for the CLP.

We have grown. We have developed well organized and computerized membership and contributor records. We have published consistently one of the best Libertarian newspapers in the country. We have opened a new, permanent headquarters, and developed a pledge program to finance its operations. We ran a full slate of Congressional candidates in 1980, and hosted some of the most successful Clark appearances of the campaign, after getting on the ballot in January. We've organized a complete accounting system and put money in the bank. We've developed county organizations and successful headquarters activities, such as the monthly cocktail party and the twice-a-month discussion groups. Recently, a library service has been established. And last — but not least — we will be hosting the Tenth Anniversary Convention of the Libertarian Party in Denver this summer — and through the efforts of Paul Grant and Ruth Bennett, we will be financing it ourselves and adding significantly to our financial resources for 1982.

That's not everything that was done — nor is it everything that could have been

progress made in the last two years, and it can best be realized by your involvement — in a leadership capacity.

In May we will be electing a new Board of Directors. It will probably be bigger, with the same five officers, plus five or six more members representing county organizations. The Board of Directors is your opportunity to shape our Party's future ... and more.

The last two years have been hard work, but not without its rewards. I have developed new and lasting friendships, learned a great deal about myself and my abilities, and I can take pride in the achievements that I helped develop. My knowledge of Libertarianism and my ability to communicate it has improved markedly. All in all, the effort was well worth it.

That's your opportunity. You can make a difference. You are the key. So think about it. The prospects are exciting, and so are the personal rewards. I look forward to supporting your leadership.

And once again, thank you.

By-Laws

Continued from page 3

candidates receiving a majority vote than there are delegate positions to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected.

Section 4. After the delegates are elected, alternates may then be selected by a majority of those voting.

Section 5. The duly elected delegates shall immediately select a delegation chair and determine their own substitution procedures. A list of the delegates and alternates, and a description of the substitution procedures, shall be submitted to the State Chair and the National Secretary within seven (7) days.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

Applicants for membership in the Party shall make application on standard forms to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Party and in payment of such fees as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws shall be in accordance with the Constitution.

of the Libertarian Party

August 26-30, 1981 Denver, Colorado

The Libertarian Party has come a long way since its beginnings ten years ago. And this summer, we're meeting in Colorado — birthplace of the party — for a grand celebration and a flying start into our second decade.

Highlights of this historic gathering will include panels, workshops, a reception in honor of our three past presidential candidates, a trip to an old gold mining town, a great debate on the future of the party, and a gala 10th Birthday Banquet that will be talked about for years to come.

For veterans and newcomers alike, LP/10 will be an exhilarating and memorable experience. Plan now to be there.

Details to follow.



LP/10

Here To Stay

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Phone (303) 573-5229