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# Colorado Liberty

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## Karl Hess and Candidates to Appear at Convention



Karl Hess

The Colorado Libertarian Party is planning to hold its '79 convention in the Belvidere in Central City on April 28 and 29. Karl Hess, famous libertarian author and organizer, has accepted the CLP's invitation to address the convention on Saturday night. Other plans include speeches by presidential hopefuls Ed Clark and Bill Hunscher, the films 'Libra' and 'Incredible Bread Machine,' the election of delegates to the crucial 1979 National Convention, and presentations by your local party regulars. Organizers anticipate a lot of fun, beer and arguments. The citizens of Central City and Blackhawk took the news calmly.

The site was chosen at the suggestion of Jack Jandreau and other prominent Gilpin County gentry. The dynamic editor of the LITTLE KINGDOM COME, Lew Cady, has endorsed the choice. The LITTLE KINGDOM COME is Central City's irregularly published underground newspaper.

Karl Hess is a long time libertarian activist who rose to prominence in the 60's. He startled conservatives when he broke with the Republican Party, refused to pay his income tax, and joined the anti-war movement. His books, THE DEATH OF POLITICS, DEAR AMERICA and NEIGHBORHOOD POWER, have become popular reading on campuses throughout the country. He lives as a welder in the mountains of West Vir-

Clark will participate in a "Meet the Press"-format panel discussion. Members of the audience will have an opportunity to question both candidates. The Convention Committee hopes that this will provide CLP members with a sense of where the two fit in the spectrum of libertarian philosophy, as well as their approaches to campaigning and dealing with the press.

If any other candidates for the '80 nomination declare before the convention, they will also be invited to speak. A separate panel will feature Colorado's most successful Libertarian candidates in the 1978 elections.

Two libertarian films, 'Libra' and 'Incredible Bread Machine,' will be shown at the Belvidere. 'Libra' is a science fiction film about the building of an orbiting space colony. The story concerns the efforts of earthside governments to control the colony which has been built by free enterprisers. 'Incredible Bread Machine' is an excellent documentary advocating free enterprise. Both films are well made, entertaining, and well worth watching.

In addition to electing delegates to the national convention, the party must choose new officers for '79, lay plans for the next election year, and review our progress so far.

See you in Central City.



Karl Hess

# New Reefer Madness

The Drug Enforcement Agency, created during the Nixon administration, has begun a new marijuana scare campaign with full White House approval. DEA chief Peter Bensinger launched the campaign with misleading claims about the "real perils of marijuana smoking." Bensinger maintains that marijuana causes birth defects, cancer and has other unhealthy side effects. Washington experts believe that the new campaign is part of a counter-attack by drug law enforcement agencies against the advocates of legalization. These new scare tactics are intended to consolidate power and recover popular support lost during the Peter Bourne/Quaalude scandal last year.

"Bensinger felt it was incumbent now for us to have something said out in the open," said the DEA's Con Dougherty. "He wanted to make it clear that the federal government would not decriminalize marijuana." Dougherty went on to say, "The White House is not making any bones about making the DEA the lead agency in drug enforcement and also the experts on what's going on with drugs. We don't have to wait for the White House to decide we're going to crack down. We're the experts, but we're really appreciative of the support we have from the White House on this."

According to one source, chief White House drug adviser Lee Dogoloff briefs the Domestic Policy Council on the basis of Bensinger's press releases. Lee Dogoloff is Peter Bourne's replacement.

The new scare stories about the health hazards of marijuana are based on distortions of research done at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). NIDA was created to find scientific evidence that illegal drugs were harmful to the people who use them. So far, NIDA has failed to discover any convincing evidence that pot or any other illegal drug is inherently harmful.

Bensinger bases his claim that pot causes birth defects on a federal study using rhesus monkeys. In the study, rhesus monkeys who smoked the human equivalent of 200 joints a day were found to be more likely than a control group to have unhealthy offspring. Two hundred joints a day would render most people incapable of breathing much less bearing children.

Bensinger's claim that pot causes cancer is

based on two studies in 1975 and 1976. These studies concluded that pot may cause cancer if it is smoked in the same quantities as tobacco. Tobacco is a federally subsidized product which is known to cause cancer. Since marijuana smokers inhale far less smoke than do tobacco smokers, there is no cancer threat in pot smoking.

Bensinger has also stated that the American Medical Association and the American Cancer Society support his accusations. Both the AMA and the American Cancer Society deny they ever supported Bensinger's claims.

Bensinger's assertions about the health risks of marijuana have been spoon-fed to the media nationwide. In the Denver area, both the Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Post published editorials supporting the DEA's scare campaign. NBC News broadcasted a special entitled "Reading, Writing and Reefers." Legalization advocates cited the special as a major factor in the defeat of a decriminalization bill in the Michigan legislature.

"It's reefer madness revisited," concludes Keith Stroup, former director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Stroup thinks that the DEA will soon ask for more funding, tougher laws and greater freedom of action.

The government estimates that 90 percent of the 454,000 marijuana arrests in 1977 were for possession of an ounce or less. Arrests for marijuana possession have been increasing during the last five years. Carter's new drug policy will probably result in more arrests in 1979.

## April: Tax Protest Month

For the last few years, the CLP has sponsored a tax protest on income tax deadline day, April 15th. This year, however, due to the scheduling of the State Convention later in the month, members are being urged to contact other groups, such as the Tax Strike Assn., who may be holding protest demonstrations, and participate in their programs.

Campaigns Director Dave Nolan will monitor other anti-tax and tax-limitation groups as to their plans for this April.

reading on campuses throughout the country. He lives as a welder in the mountains of West Virginia and is working to popularize libertarianism amongst blue-collar workers.

"It isn't enough that libertarians have the right opinions," Hess said recently. "We must learn skills and be able to produce." Hess' interests include alternative technology as well as community organizing and politics. His post and beam house in West Virginia has attracted the attention of energy conservationists and alternative housing enthusiasts. Hess has also worked on the problems of decentralizing our cities by making neighborhoods more self-sufficient. Hess has addressed himself to the practical problems of local power generation, local food production, low-cost housing and transportation. His new book COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY will present some of the results of his research.

Hess has been criticized by other libertarians in the past for having left-wing sympathies. Hess has even been accused of being a 'Maoist'! Hess describes himself as "an un-hyphenated anarchist."

Bill Hunscher and Ed Clark, announced candidates for the 1980 Libertarian Party Presidential nomination, are both scheduled to speak at the CLP's 1979 convention in Central City.

Hunscher, 41, is the chairman of the New Hampshire LP. Under his leadership, the New Hampshire party has been one of the most successful in the country since 1975. A successful independent businessman, Hunscher has been active in the LP almost from the beginning. In addition to talking up his own bid for the Presidential nomination, he will give those at the convention some insights into the success of last year's campaign in New Hampshire. In that tiny state, Hunscher fielded a dozen candidates, four of whom received over twelve percent of the vote.

Clark, a 47-year-old attorney from San Marino, California, was one of the founders of the LP and the Libertarian candidate for Governor of California last year. LP founder Dave Nolan recently remarked that Clark was one of the three people he could think of who have been at every LP National Convention since the first one was held in Denver in 1972. Clark is still at the forefront; he received 5.5% of the vote in California after becoming the first gubernatorial candidate ever to secure a place on the California ballot by petition. He, too, will have valuable observations on his impressive campaign to offer to those who come to Central City.

In order to help potential delegates to the Los Angeles nominating convention evaluate the two men as candidates, both Hunscher and

See you in Central City.

For more details and a registration form, call JAN PRINCE at 832-8187. Karl Hess will speak at 7:30 pm on April 28.

## Schroeder Favors New Draft

When the Denver Post polled Colorado's congressional delegation on the issue of a revived draft, Rep. Pat Schroeder stated her unqualified support of a new draft.

In the poll, published on Monday, Feb. 5, Schroeder stated, "I favor reinstituting the draft—mainly because people were sold the volunteer Army under fraudulent conditions." Schroeder also endorsed the idea of drafting women as well.

Schroeder further claimed that a new draft would bring about a better balance in the army by drafting young white middle-class people who presently avoid military service. The experience of Vietnam, where the poor minorities fought and died on the front line while the middle-class draftees were given support duties in the rear, has had no apparent effect on Ms. Schroeder.

The other members of Colorado's congressional delegation hedged on the issue except for one notable exception. Rep. Jim Johnson, when asked if he favored reinstituting the draft, replied, "Nope."

## Rocky Flats Demonstration Planned

The Rocky Flats Action Group will stage a demonstration at Rocky Flats on April 28 from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, this demonstration will conflict with the first day of the CLP's annual convention. Fortunately, libertarians wishing to attend both events will still be able to catch the last part of the afternoon program as well as the evening program in Central City.

Karl Hess, the featured speaker at the CLP convention, plans to attend the demonstration before going to the convention. A good friend of Karl's, Loren Weinberg, is helping to coordinate the demonstration. For more information-contact the American Friends Service Committee at 832-1676.



# The Victimless "Crime" Quagmire: Playing with Words

Editorial  
by Pat Lilly

Over the past year or so, a number of articles, most of them written by syndicated columnists, have appeared on the Op-Ed pages of the nation's conservative newspapers defending the criminalization of prostitution, gambling, and drug possession in particular. The authors typically proceed to "explain" that there is, logically, no such thing as a "victimless crime." As conservative columnist Anthony Harrigan so deftly put it, "every crime has a victim."

Harrigan, and others, go on to argue that the "victim" of some of the things they have decided are "crimes" is "society" or "the public" or even "civilization." Claiming, sort of as an aside, that the interests of "civilization" coincide perfectly with their own vision of the social order, they proceed to conclude that all these things called "victimless crimes" really do have victims and ought to be punished as crimes, after all. This is their answer to the outrage that brought the phrase "victimless crime" into existence.

All libertarians, of course, certainly agree that the term "victimless crime" is a contradiction in terms: there ain't no such a critter. But what Harrigan & Co. have failed to recognize is that the quotation marks go around the word crime, not around victimless. The point is not that every crime has a victim so much as that action WITH-OUT a victim is a crime. The conservative failure to understand what does and does not constitute victimization is common, and is related to their failure to distinguish between rights and interests.

Harrigan argues that since the large-scale use of drugs (which he IMPLIES is an unavoidable result of not punishing possession) will cause society, in aggregate to develop in ways which HE finds less desirable than the STATUS QUO, society is being "victimized," i.e., having its "rights" violated. Thus, it is ok for "society" to lash out in righteous "self-defense" against all those people it's so easy to hate anyway. They really think of it as some kind of legitimate self-defense.

Objectivists will be the first to point out that the entity "society" (or "civilization") does not exist, and certainly is not a PERSON and, therefore, doesn't have any "rights." The political manifestations of this fact are the core of the libertarian

opposition to Prohibition in all its forms. Only if one assumes that "society" has rights (that is, things to which it is entitled merely because it exists) can one decide that one's own subjective preferences, no matter how reasonable as personal values, represent the aforementioned rights. And this is really all that Harrigan and his fellow columnists are saying. They think that "society" (i.e., they) has a right to a world devoid of any social or cultural trends which offend their personal standards of general acceptability. And the incorrectness of this assertion comes not from their typical choice of religious (rather than secular) criteria for acceptability. It comes from the mistaken presumption that anyone, including "society," has a RIGHT to have the future course of civilization follow his or her preferences. Conservatives often demonstrate at great length and with fervid sincerity that the expected course of civilization without Prohibition is not to their liking, and not in accord with their preferences about the optimum society. This, however, is definitely not sufficient to establish that they have a right to see society develop in their chosen way. That they, or society, has an INTEREST in cultivating certain kinds of behavior or omissions from behavior, is almost tautologically true. But it just isn't the same thing as RIGHT.

Individual people are ENTITLED to an absence of unprovoked violence, including being jailed or "investigated," not because it is inconvenient to be jailed or investigated, but because individual people are sovereign units. On the other hand, the society existing at any particular time has no right whatsoever to an assurance that it will continue to exist comfortably, no matter how inconvenient the unfolding of history becomes, precisely because it is not an individual and does not have any legitimate "sovereignty." It is not entitled to anything

simply because it exists. Societies can be discarded, like worn-out washing machines, when they are no longer wanted. People, who have rights, cannot.

The conservatives claim that since there's no such thing as a victimless crime, all the things which are currently illegal have victims and should continue to be punished. More than one proposal has surfaced to actually INCREASE the penalties for marijuana possession. And the response of the conservative establishment to the outcry over the inherent sexism of prostitution laws was not to curtail the harassment of prostitutes, but to expand their own jurisdiction and start harassing their customers, too. Now that's fairness! The correct conclusion, of course, is that since there's no such thing as a "victimless crime," all the victimless "crime" laws should be taken off the books forthwith.

The right to own private property must be restored, without any exceptions. The free right of contract must also be restored, including voluntarily contracting to violate traditional norms and, thus, change society. Only when the main thrust of those many who chafe under the enforcement of these laws is directed at abolishing the claim of authority which they represent, instead of trying to "reform" them, will there be any relief from the wholesale violations of civil liberties which are endemic to their existence. And only in a society where individual economic and property rights are explicitly recognized and honored is it impossible for any government to arrogate to itself such an authority. That is the goal which conservatives are obstructing with their moralistic support of Prohibition and legislated Victorianism. Those who value fairness and privacy need to understand this much better than most of them now do in order to counter the conservative attack on progress in this area of law.

## Taking Care of Business Natural Gas Regulation: Can We Afford It?

by Mark Travis

Recently, the Senate voted to expand the regulation of natural gas. The proposal, currently under attack by liberals and conservatives, allows price hikes to occur, but would extend the regulatory jurisdiction of the federal government to encompass intrastate sales.

Senators Abourezk and Metzenbaum, who have campaigned vigorously for more stringent controls, went so far as to claim that a reduction

and what it will cost us in the future.

The problem with the regulation of natural gas is twofold: (1) Since it is so much cheaper than competitive fuels, consumers are encouraged to increase vastly gas consumption; (2) To the extent that there are limited financial returns from the product in respect of its opportunity costs, natural gas exploration and production are discouraged. As basic economic theory

us to predict.

Needless to say, these basic principles were learned at the School of Hard Knocks by the millions of Americans who underwent considerable hardship during the last two winters, when the government spat in the face of the most simple of economic truths. We might therefore ask, in light of these revelations, the question: What must be the overall cost of this regulation when

we note that some of the statements made by President Carter and his coterie of Congressional "rip-off" investigators demand closer scrutiny.

Pindyck concludes: "A regulation-induced shortage only makes sense from the point of view of total public welfare if the gain to consumers from lower prices exceeds the losses created by the shortage. In the case of natu-



have campaigned vigorously for more stringent controls, went so far as to claim that a reduction of existing regulation would eventually cost the taxpayers as much as \$162 billion, and that additional pricing restrictions are desperately needed.

President Carter, echoing similar sentiments, has accused the petroleum companies opposing augmented regulation as having committed "the biggest rip-off in history" as "potential war profiteers."

After witnessing this grandiose display of noteworthy intentions, you would suppose that the regulation of natural gas was the most beneficial invention since the income tax. Indeed, the subtle impression created is that to even briefly entertain the notion of deregulation is to border on the verge of wittingly damning our beloved nation to the abyss of economic prostration!

Well, as is usually the case in such discussions, our Friends for a Regulated Economy have neglected to make mention of a couple facts, namely, what regulation itself is costing us,

## Reviews

by Loran Gayton

For those of you who want to learn more about the libertarian movement, I would like to recommend these periodicals and books.

### LIBERTARIAN REVIEW

Published monthly, LR subjects national and international events to a thorough libertarian analysis. LR has a clearly anarchist emphasis in its content. Recent issues have featured articles about Howard Jarvis, the fight against the drug laws, government suppression of free speech, our infamous immigration laws, current government lies, as well as biting criticism of the libertarian movement itself. Its best articles recently have been about civil liberties. LR also produces some excellent attacks on the current liberal and conservative positions. Twelve issues cost \$12. Send check to Libertarian Review, 1620 Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA 94111. Single issues are \$1.25 from Laissez Faire Books.

### REASON

Reason is the oldest libertarian magazine, having survived ten (count 'em, 10!) turbulent years. Reason is at its best when analyzing economic issues and publishing current libertarian philosophy. It is by far the slickest libertarian magazine being published today. The popular limited-

tunity costs, natural gas exploration and production are discouraged. As basic economic theory suggests, these are the best means yet devised for creating a lasting shortage.

Given our government's policy over the last several decades, what has happened is exactly what we would be led to expect. The freeze on interstate gas prices resulted in a consumption rate that far exceeded the rate of increase of proven reserves on interstate markets. This must eventually mean the exhaustion of all interstate supplies.

When we compare interstate markets with intrastate markets, presto: we find that from 1970-76, according to the Federal Energy Administration, 95% of new natural gas reserves were sold in those states in which they were discovered. These markets are, due to a lack of regulation, experiencing a pronounced "glut" of gas. What we find then are shortages under regulation and abundant supplies in the absence of price controls. Again, this is precisely what an elementary course in economics would enable

government libertarian viewpoint tends to be predominant in Reason and that is probably why it is the most widely read libertarian magazine. As the most popular magazine in the movement, Reason is the forum for much of the internal debate in the movement. Reason tries to represent all viewpoints in the libertarian movement, yet it still catches hell periodically for publishing unpopular articles. This is the best single choice for those who can't afford to subscribe to more than one magazine. Twelve issues cost \$15. Send check to Reason Magazine, Box 40105, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. Single issues are \$1.25 from Laissez Faire Books.

### INQUIRY

Inquiry is a new magazine of political commentary that is trying to appeal to the general public. In spite of its clearly libertarian viewpoint, Inquiry has angered many libertarians by featuring writers from outside the movement. Recent issues have featured articles on Indian land rights, government spying, and separatist movements in Spain, England, and Canada. This magazine will certainly remain controversial for years to come. Twelve issues cost \$12.50. Send check to Inquiry, Box 19270, Washington, D.C. 20036.

light of these revelations, the question: What must be the overall cost of this regulation when compared to the alleged benefits of governmentally controlled prices?

In a recently published report, economist Robert Pindyck of MIT computed the total cost of the shortage created by federal controls. Central to his analysis were the observations that those shivering Americans in the East had to substitute other, more expensive fuels for natural gas, and that the prices of alternative energy sources were uniformly higher than the unregulated market price of said product.

In carefully examining the economic trade-offs between continued price controls and the deleterious consequences of the federally induced shortage in the form of increased unemployment and lowered production, Pindyck calculated the aggregate losses from regulation to be more than \$180 billion by 1985. Comparing this figure to the total of \$54 billion he arrived at as the increased cost in higher prices incurred through phased gas deregulation,

A NEW DAWN FOR AMERICA by Roger MacBride

This is a non-technical introduction to libertarian politics written by the LP's candidate for president in '76. MacBride presents an accurate critique of big government and discusses the libertarian alternative. Available from your state party for \$1.00.

THE DEATH OF POLITICS by Karl Hess

This is a good introductory pamphlet written by America's leading drop-out. Copies are available from Laissez Faire Books for \$.50

ANARCHY, STATE AND UTOPIA by Robert Nozick

This is a technical treatise on political philosophy by a libertarian professor at Harvard. This book has influenced thousands of young intellectuals both here and abroad. Nozick examines and rejects the traditional political philosophies and then proposes a minimal state tolerable to a practical individualist. Available from Laissez Faire Books for \$5.95.

Laissez Faire Books is located at 206 Mercer Street, New York, New York 10012. They have a wide selection of libertarian literature and materials. Their catalog is \$1.00.

view of total public welfare if the gain to consumers from lower prices exceeds the losses created by the shortage. . . . In the case of natural gas, continued regulation-induced shortages cannot be justified, since the cost of the shortages would far outweigh the gain that some consumers would receive by being able to pay lower prices."

As columnist M. Stanton Evans recently observed, "The 'rip-off' shoe is on the other foot." Continued regulation of natural gas, instead of easing the financial burden on the taxpayer, will cost us well over \$100 billion as studies such as the one above suggest. Clearly, the government cannot solve the problem; the government IS the problem.

What we must come to terms with as consumers is the realization that the economics of this and other problems are much more involved than our "good-will" politicians realize or are willing to admit. But then again, we've always had a difficult time separating what is politically feasible from what is in the best economic interests of our country.

## Draft Set For Comeback

Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi has introduced a bill into the Congress which would restore the military draft. The bill has so far received a favorable hearing before the House Armed Services subcommittee.

The Bill would require renewed registration of all American citizens at age 18 (of both sexes) and require the actual drafting of 200,000 people annually for combat training. Montgomery testified in February that the intent of his bill was to allow the military to "mobilize" in 60 days by creating a "Ready Force Reserve" as well as a national roster of registrants.

Much of the debate so far has centered on the issue of drafting women. Subcommittee chairman Richard White of Texas has given his official endorsement to the bill, but echoed Montgomery's hope that women could be kept out of combat positions even though they would be subject to the new draft. It seems certain that the sex issue as well as others will be debated on the floor of the House after receiving committee approval.

Alan Bock, head of Libertarian Advocate, the libertarian lobbying group in Washington, D.C., has been monitoring the push for a renewed draft for several months. He says that the pro-draft forces are well organized and has been urging libertarians to take up the issue before any more pro-draft momentum is built up by writing to Congressmen, newspapers, etc.



From the Chair

by Loran Gayton

# What's a Libertarian?

Recently, a lady from the media who wanted to know more about the party asked me who our 'leader' was and what 'book' she should read. I explained that the party was not loyal to any one person's leadership or devoted to a narrow ideology. The libertarian movement, I pointed out, is a broad coalition of different people that have been brought together to limit our government and dissolve the ruling power structures in our society. While all libertarians agree on the goal of a free society, few agree on philosophy, economics or life-style.

"Oh," she said. I suspect I only confused her.

A few days later, I met an older gentleman who believed that libertarians wanted to abolish traffic lights.

Then there was the fellow who said that libertarians were just Republicans who smoked grass.

The libertarian movement must be the most misunderstood political group in the country. We have been called revolutionary, reactionary, subversive, right-wing, left-wing, fanatical, wishy-washy, too intellectual, too simple-minded and just plain misguided. The problem, I think, is that

the libertarians just don't fit any of the traditional classifications in American politics.

We really are something new.

The Libertarian Party is for all people who neither want to rule or be ruled. It is a party for those who have rejected the violence and deceptions of the state. It is a party for those who believe in the tolerance, self-reliance and the common-sense of the majority of people. It is a party for the free.

The philosophy of the party is that all people have the right to live as they see fit as long as they respect the freedom of others. The proper function of government, as we see it, is to punish those who use force or fraud to harm others. Presently, the function of government is to order our lives to its convenience, protect the privileges and wealth of the powerful, and wage war to protect its empire.

While we seek a better world, we are not utopian. We know that even under the best circumstances that injustice, poverty, and crime will persist. The party's modest goal is a government that is not a tool of the rich and powerful. As we see it, the greatest evil in our society is the exploi-

tation of the ordinary worker by the state and its allies in the business community. Forty-two percent of the Gross National Product goes to the government in taxes! Our government is a terrible burden which robs us, destroys our dreams, enslaves us and occasionally kills us.

To accomplish this goal, the LP will work to abolish most (not all) of the institutions of our present centralized state. Our bloated military establishment, our wasteful 'social welfare' complex, our protected monopolies and our oppressive police-state agencies would all suffer from the changes we would make. Our lives would not change radically. We would, however, enjoy greater freedom of choice, more local control, lower taxes and a better quality of life.

I cannot, in this column, give you all the arguments in support of the libertarian philosophy. Nor can I give you a detailed program of reforms. Such material is available from the National Headquarters and from your own state party. In fact, there is nothing I can say, nothing I can do that will make you a party supporter. All I can do is ask you to use your own reason. Evaluate for yourself the results of years of big government.

Our military establishment promised us peace through strength. Instead, it gave us war, waste and two generations of fear.

Our 'social welfare' programs were created to fight poverty. Yet the poor are still here and their ranks grow as the worker's paycheck shrinks. The schools deteriorate. The Social Security system is bankrupt. The only people who have prospered

under this system are the bureaucrats.

To protect the consumer, business today is regulated, taxed and subsidized. However, the regulators in government have become the tools of the industries they control. The government fixes prices at an industry's request. Competition is suppressed. Monopolies are created. Failing companies are subsidized. Inefficient industries are protected by tariffs. The results of this policy are higher prices and higher taxes. This policy also contributes to the concentration of wealth into the hands of a few.

There are those who claim that government can be made more efficient, less costly and more responsible without radical change. It is our belief, however, that government itself is naturally inefficient, wasteful and corrupt. As we see it, governments cannot be reformed but they can be controlled. A limited government, no matter how bad, will not become a killing burden.

The people are beginning to reject the old formulas of power politics. The influence of well-financed lobbies is still strong, but they are weakening. A new spirit of self-reliance has replaced the automatic reliance on government power that was common in the last decade. The old political structures are slowly breaking up. The LP is part of this change.

If some folks have trouble understanding what is happening, it is because their imaginations cannot conceive of real change. A new world is forming as they doze. They will be sleeping through the future.

## Today's Logic

by Jim Phelps

I will not vote for any politician who votes for a peacetime draft.

The defense of our country is of the utmost importance. We must not lose our freedoms as a result of conquest by a foreign enemy.

But we must not take away the freedoms of our young people on the pretext of saving our freedoms.

The burden of defending our freedoms should be borne voluntarily by free people.

Those who bear this burden should receive fair compensation.

The all volunteer army is the only kind a free people should have.

A drafted army is an army of slaves.

For a free people to defend their freedom with an army of slaves is totally unacceptable.

Yet Congress is expected to debate in this new

If the all volunteer army paid enough money it could get enough volunteers.

The taxpayers who paid the money would be sharing the burden. And it would not fall as heavily on the individual taxpayers as it would fall on individual draftees.

Another solution is the free enterprise system. The army is part of our government. As such, it is just as inefficient, perhaps more so.

Maybe private armies would work out better.

Contracts could be let out to private companies, colleges and vocational schools to produce men trained for certain jobs.

For instance, pilot training schools now in existence could train pilots, navigators, etc.

Other schools could train people in the use of rifles, bazookas, flame throwers, etc.

Young people could take the courses in their

## The Leading Edge by L. Neil Smith

I'm a "crackpot"—a "silly" crackpot, according to a pair of LP chairpersons with whom I recently discussed my distaste for airport security procedures, and the growing evidence that chimps and gorillas possess intelligence (and therefore rights) equivalent to our own.

"Crazy" I've been called before: when I insisted kids are human, to be accorded human rights; when I maintained that taxation is theft, that elected Libertarians can't morally collect a government salary; when I suggested there's more to Libertarian politics than planting our own hogs at the trough, that we might also wither the state by means of an immediate, permanent, and total moratorium on government hiring.

In each instance, the real issue, in my view, has been INTEGRITY: the relentlessly consistent application of principle without compromise.

certain I never could have slipped Proposition 13 past the 1977 National Platform Committee. "Too irresponsible," they'd have said. "We want folks—especially the media—to take us seriously!"

THERE IS A TECHNOLOGY OF LIBERTY. Just as consistent application of Scientific Method has given us physical progress, so consistent application of the Principle of Liberty has thrown back philosophical barriers which previous generations considered insurmountable.

But progress implies frontiers—dark, scary areas where moderate men fear to tread, but where silly crackpots MUST, because the alternative is stagnation, retrogression. Look at England, if you don't believe me, or America today, headed down the toilet because they've failed to expand on what the pioneers of liberty



an army of slaves is totally unacceptable. Yet Congress is expected to debate in this new year of 1979 about reinstating the Selective Service system.

The Defense Department says the all volunteer army is not working. They can't get enough volunteers.

So they want slaves.

Since the majority of the voters would not be drafted it could easily vote in favor of drafting others.

But a majority vote would not make it morally right.

The simple solution is money.

rifles, bazookas, flame throwers, etc. Young people could take the courses in their spare time or while in college. They could get paid for learning certain skills with bonuses paid when they completed their training.

Other than refresher courses, these young people could be guaranteed they would not be called for actual service except in case of national emergency.

We can defend our freedoms without imposing involuntary servitude on our young people, probably for less money, if we will give free enterprise a chance.

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## SWP Wins Election Law Exemption

The federal Elections Commission has agreed to exempt the Socialist Workers' Party from the federal requirement that political parties disclose the identities of all contributors of \$100 or more.

The consent decree came after the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), representing the SWP, sued the FEC on the basis of privacy, citing previous harassment of the SWP by the FBI.

The government's case for disclosure was supported by Common Cause, the liberal/populist coalition which was involved in lobbying for the passage of the Federal Elections Campaign Act.

The SWP was exempted from the disclosure requirements to which other political parties, including the national LP, are subjected, on the grounds that it is a "minor party vulnerable to harassment." At press time, no information was

has been INTEGRITY: the relentlessly consistent application of principle, without compromise, without exceptions, without excuses. And no matter who gets burned.

There isn't any conflict between principle and practicality. Radicalism (integrity applied to politics) is the indispensable sparkplug of social revolution. But forced to choose, I'd take principle every time—this is the Libertarian Party, after all.

And yet, I wonder, if we'd followed the cautious advice of today's "moderate gradualists" twenty years ago, would we have come out publicly against the income tax? Or would we still be hedging, for fear of being labelled "crazy"? I'm

available as to whether or not the LP might also win such an exemption. National Director Chris Hocker reports that compliance with the federal disclosure requirements is a serious burden on the national office, as well as an irritant to many Libertarians who resent the government's intrusion into the financial relations between the LP and its members and donors.

The LP, along with the ACLU, was a plaintiff in the 1976 court case, Buckley vs. Valeo, which overturned some of the original requirements of the FECA and paved the judicial way for the decision in the SWP case.

headed down the toilet because they've failed to expand on what the pioneers of liberty accomplished.

The relentless application of principle: that's what THE LEADING EDGE is all about—ADVANCING THE TECHNOLOGY OF LIBERTY. Future installments will plunge recklessly into the controversies I've mentioned, plus a lot of others guaranteed to give "responsible" Libertarians the galloping never-get-overs. All the crazies will love it.

You gradualists stick around, too—today's silliness is tomorrow's respectability.

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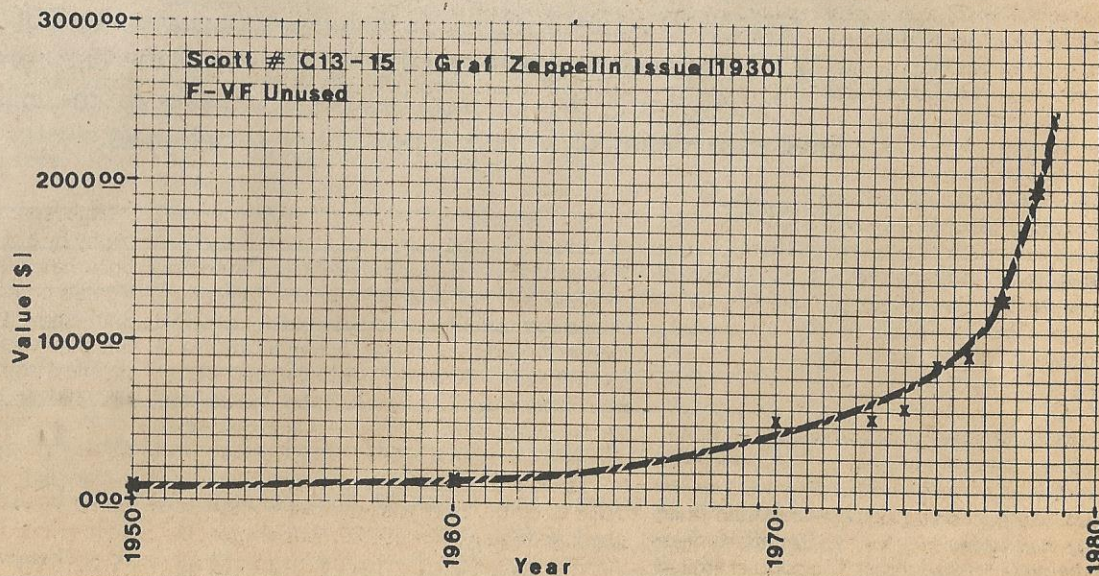


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# Colorado Activists Prepare for '79 National Convention

Preparations are already well underway for the 1979 Libertarian National Convention to be held September 7-10 at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, and party members in Colorado, where the LP was founded, are gearing up to play an important role in that convention.

Because the party's 1980 Presidential nominee will be selected there, this convention promises to be the most important and exciting in LP history. (Later articles in COLORADO LIBERTY will review the potential nominees.) For the first time, delegates and speakers at the convention may get national media attention approaching that lavished on the election-year conventions of the two major statist parties. It will also be the largest convention in LP history, with estimates of attendance already topping 2,000.

Even before delegate selection has begun, however, Coloradans are already assured of an active role in the convention's work. At the National Committee meeting in Las Vegas on the 14th of January, former Colorado LP Chair SALLY MASON was appointed to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules Committee. Mason, an interior designer from Denver who joined the party in 1975, is interested in simplifying the party's convention rules and procedures, to fight what she sees as a trend toward bureaucratization in the national party. Many of the independence-minded Libertarians in Colorado are supportive of her efforts, and were pleasantly surprised when she succeeded in her first bid for appointment to a national committee.

At the same NatCom meeting, even hotter competition went on for the at-large seats on the

all-important Platform Committee, and two Coloradans made names for themselves. NEIL SMITH of Fort Collins, writer, former gun shop owner, and vocal expert on gun prohibition, was named to the Committee in the first round of balloting. Smith has experience; he served on the '77 Platform Committee as Colorado's representative and worked on the state Platform Committees in both '77 and '78. Well known in the national LP for his inspiring defense of firearms rights, he has pledged to bring a more radical vision to the tone and content of the 1980 Platform.

In a second round of balloting, state party Secretary PATRICK LILLY was named first alternate to the Platform Committee. If for any reason any of the ten people appointed by the NatCom cannot serve on this year's Platform Committee, Lilly will be that person's replacement. Like Mason, Lilly too was making his first bid for a seat on a national committee. He also worked on both previous state Platform Committees, chairing the '78 committee. Lilly and Smith are planning to work closely together on issues concerning the national platform.

Among the dozen or so delegates to the Convention from Colorado will be National Vice-Chair and former State Finance Director MARY LOUISE HANSON and National Committee-man JOHN MASON. Under the national party constitution, they are assured of delegate status in addition to the delegates allotted to the state on the basis of national memberships and votes in the previous presidential election. Both have been at all the meetings of the NatCom since the

last National Convention, and their accumulated experience should be of great value to the rest of the Colorado delegation.

The state's delegates will be chosen at the State Convention in Central City, and any Colorado party member is eligible. Any Colorado LP member can also become a delegate to the State Convention, and participate in the selection of the national delegates, by simply showing up and registering. We can reasonably anticipate sending a full-sized delegation, including several alternates, to Los Angeles.

Even for those who are not delegates or alternates, the Los Angeles convention should be FUN. There has never been a gathering of supporters of liberty such as this, and there will be a lot going on in addition to the business sessions; plan now to be there.

## Whale Products in Denver?

A hair conditioning product, "Nutri-Tonic Life," listing spermaceti among its ingredients, has been seen on shelves in some Denver stores. (Spermaceti is a term for sperm whale oil.) The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 prohibits the use of any whale by-products in a commercial product in the United States.

The local Greenpeace office called the Department of Commerce in Denver and talked to an agent in their law enforcement division. They were already aware of Nutri-Tonic Life and had begun investigating the manufacturers, Dell Laboratories, of Farmingdale, New York. The agent said he had received many calls about this product and that if the ingredient truly was sperm whale oil that "They are in a lot of trouble."

The agent also said that there is a possibility that a man-made substitute labeled as spermaceti is being used. Greenpeace will keep us informed about further developments.

Reprinted from THE SOUNDING, the publication of Rocky Mountain Greenpeace, 2029 E. 13th Ave., Denver 80206.

## May National Committee Meeting

DAN DENSMORE 388-7438

Romantic-Realist-Libertarian  
Mellow with others and goal-driven with myself.

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## New Marijuana Ski Law

One of the little-noticed provisions of the ski liability legislation to come out of the current legislative session creates a new marijuana "crime." Under the new law, skiing under the influence of "drugs or alcohol" is specifically banned.

It's no secret that plenty of skiers smoke dope, the better to enjoy those chair lift rides, and lots more are practiced beer drinkers. But although possession has been illegal all along, no one

themselves have in the past punished by revoking lift tickets (like skiing through closures) are also punishable by removal of ALL liability of the area operator for injury damages, and possible arrest as well. In January, a New Mexico man was fined \$500 under a similar statute for skiing down a closed run.

This legislation revokes the right of both skiers and ski area operators to negotiate privately the terms of an agreement whereby the skier uses

## State Platform Committee Report

The final report of the 1979 Platform Committee will recommend that no changes be made in the current Colorado Platform, according to Chairman Dave Nolan.

This is in sharp contrast to the extensive committee report and floor debate over the platform at last year's convention. In '78, the finishing touches were put on what many consider to be



possession has been illegal all along, no one could be charged with "skiing stoned" before. Now, one can.

The law contains many other specific provisions, most of them defining the limits of the liability of operators of ski areas to suits resulting from injuries. Some large damage awards against eastern ski areas last year prompted Colorado Ski Country, USA to lobby for the legislation. The law pre-empts case law on a virtual laundry list of specifics. In addition to requiring ski area operators to do things like put up signs announcing various dangers to skiers, it lists numerous conditions with which skiers must comply in order to be able to sue for negligence should they be injured whilst schussing.

Now most of the things which the ski areas

the terms of an agreement whereby the skier uses the operator's property for recreation. Many specific terms of the agreement are now either required or forbidden by law, and the precedent has been set for including all possible contract terms in one of those two categories. It also creates a number of new criminal charges (like skiing stoned). This has the effect of naming, by statute, numerous specific actions as crimes, when previously they could only be CONSTRUED by the police to come under an existing law, with the possibility that a court might disagree.

Restricted contracting rights, higher costs to skiers, new encumbrances to starting up a new ski area, and new powers for the police to act against victimless activities, all in one bill.

## Committee Meeting

The Libertarian National Committee will meet the 19th and 20th of May in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Among other things, the Committee will deal with developing plans for the National Convention in Los Angeles and the growing debate between "futurists" and "pragmatists" in the national Party. A panel discussion on "Future Direction for the LP" will include Coloradan NEIL SMITH and National Committeeman MURRAY ROTHBARD.

CLP members interested in attending should contact the North Carolina LP (State Chair: Bill Conerly, 11 Colonial Village, Laurinburg, N.C. 28352).

touches on what many consider to be one of the most radical state LP platforms in existence. Many controversies still exist within the CLP over various planks in the platform.

According to Nolan, however, his committee was unanimous in their belief that other business, such as delegate selection for the national convention, is more important than platform debates for this year's convention. In addition, Presidential candidates will be at this year's convention, so time will be needed to evaluate their qualifications, and there will be another chance to revise the state platform before the main portion of the 1980 campaign.

For these reasons, the Platform Committee is hoping for minimal platform debate, although members in attendance at the convention can offer amendments to the platform from the floor (convention details can be found elsewhere in this edition). Lee Ann Lawrence and Loran Gayton also serve on the committee.

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## Smear Campaign In Alaska

Dick Randolph was the only one of the four Libertarian legislative candidates in the Fairbanks, Alaska area who was elected, and part of the credit goes to the high-powered last-minute smear campaign against the LP conducted by the Democrats there.

Late in the campaign, independent polls showed strong support for the Libertarian slate, and the opposition apparently decided rather suddenly that they had to take the Libertarian Party seriously. They launched a campaign of full-page newspaper ads and broadcast spots specifically attacking the Libertarian position on drugs, public schools, and public property. According to Randolph, the Democrats harped on our opposition to heroin prohibition, claimed that we would abolish all schools, and abolish roads. The last two, of course, are distortions of the LP position, which seeks to substitute private schools for public ones and end the right of governments to seize property for rights-of-way under "eminent domain."

Randolph's election to the Alaska legislature climaxed a highly visible and professional campaign by the Fairbanks LP, in which they actually raised more money than the local Republicans. Of the six representatives now representing the district, four are Democrats, one is Randolph, and one is a Republican. Randolph reports that it is now Democrats first, Libertarians second, and Republicans on the bottom in Fairbanks area politics. We're no longer the "third" party there.