Robin Heid Nominated for Governor

The Colorado Libertarian Party nominated Robin Heid as its candidate for Governor, at its annual convention 20-22 April in Ft. Collins. Heid hopes to win the office from incumbent Roy Romer with a message of "less faith in government, more trust in people".

Heid says he is running for governor "because the police state shadow lifting from Eastern Europe is drifting over here . . . Every day, government steals more of our freedom, property, and choices under the pretext of making the world 'safer' for us. Worse, many of us aid and abet this criminal assault against our freedom by cheering on government when it attacks others."

Heid has most prominently been associated with the effort to end the so-called "War on Drugs", and promises to veto any law which escalates that war. He is currently chairman of the No More Drug War Foundation. "The war has become
currently chairman of the No More Drug War Foundation. "The war has become an excuse to attack the privacy, property, and freedom of all Americans. Worse, it promotes the selling of drugs to children, increases crime, and reduces police effectiveness. Just as dangerous, Colorado will have to raise taxes more than 1.5 billion dollars in the next ten years to pay for it."

He is just as opposed to the growing "War on Guns". A U.S. Army veteran and certified firearms instructor, he says we must change the focus from "keeping the guns out of the wrong hands" to "getting them into the right hands". "I will seek expanded firearms carry rights and veto any gun law that surrenders control of citizen arms to government."

Other themes of his campaign are taxes, economic development, and education. He supports the TABOR (tax limitation) initiative.

Heid has degrees in journalism and political science from Metropolitan State College, and additional coursework in systems analysis, computer management, science and art.

He has been a communications consultant in the campaigns of Martha Ezzard and Ken Kramer for U.S. Senate. He was nominated by the LP for U.S. House of Representatives, 1st District, in 1988.

Heid has created some controversy by simultaneously seeking the nomination of the Republican Party. This has led to speculation that he might appear twice on the November ballot. The Republicans will choose their candidate at an assembly in June.

Another contender for the Republican nomination, John Andrews, had been mentioned as a possible Libertarian nominee, but in announcing his candidacy a few days before the convention he made clear that he intended to take a more traditionally conservative stand.

President of the Independence Institute, a Colorado think-tank, Andrews has a good

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Well, as Ron threatened in the last issue of the CLiPboard, I have become the chair of the Colorado Libertarian Party. I have several goals for the next year and it looks like it is going to be a busy one. This being an election year, however, I suppose I should lead with that this month and leave the rest 'til later.

We have the opportunity to make a great step in Colorado politics this year. Up until now, the CLP has, in the eyes of the Colorado state government, been simply a political organization. In order for a political organization to become a party in this state they must receive ten percent of the vote for governor. This year there are several other statewide elections in which the CLP can make nominations. The office of United States Senator is being vacated by Bill Armstrong. As I understand there is already a two-way race for that seat, but any person who would like to run for that office as a Libertarian would be welcome. In addition, the nominations for Attorney General and State Treasurer are available. If you are interested in running for any of those seats please contact any member of the CLP board as soon as possible.

At the convention last month there was one nomination and one non-nomination accepted.

It was specifically decided not to nominate anyone for the office of Secretary of State. This decision was based on arguments made by Jon Baraga. Jon told the attendees at the convention that the number of signatures required for an initiative or referendum petition is based on the number of votes cast in the previous election for that office. If we can reduce the total vote count in that race we can likewise reduce the difficulty in getting initiatives on the ballot. For that reason any efforts made by the Libertarian Party in the race for Secretary of State will be to encourage all voters to not vote in that race. Hopefully Jon will give a copy of his highly moving speech to the CLiPboard for publication.

In the race for governor the CLP nominated Robin Heid. Robin is an attorney and has considerable experience in political campaigns. He has carefully avoided stepping on any toes and has therefore accomplished little and angered few. This shallow support may just be the chink in his armor that we can capitalize on. If we run a race based on high visibility we should be able to get a significant percentage of the vote across the state. If we capitalize on a few key issues such as gun control, taxes and economic development it should not be too difficult to get the ten percent we require.

The key to running a high visibility Libertarian campaign, in my opinion, would be to run a number of low-level, grassroots campaigns and to those who are seeking or who have received nominations a quick caution. While we Libertarians are dedicated defenders of liberty, we are too few to provide the substantial financial and physical resources available to the other parties. We will, however, be ready and willing to give whatever aid we can as a group and encourage all members to do what they can as individuals to further the cause of freedom.

I understand that there are those who disagree with the above state-
In the race for governor the CLP nominated Robin Heid. Robin is seeking the Republican nomination for that race as well and hopes to have his name on two lines of the ballot. I am sure that Robin’s background and positions will be printed elsewhere or at a later date so I will not go into them here but the significance of the race for governor is something that must be recognized.

As I mentioned previously, to become a political party in Colorado we must receive ten percent of the vote. This year’s gubernatorial race could be the opportunity we need. It appears that with three announced candidates, and no widespread popular support for any of them, the Republican party will make no serious attempt to unseat incumbent Roy Romer. Governor Romer on the other hand, while having widespread popular support, has done little or nothing to please the people of Colorado. In fact, it appears that Romer’s support stems mainly from the fact that he has done little or nothing period.

Opinions expressed in the CLiPboard are not necessarily official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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No Compromise on Guns

by L. Neil Smith

The Atlanta Declaration: Every man, woman, and responsible child has a natural, fundamental, and inalienable human, individual, civil, and Constitutional right to obtain, own, and carry, openly or concealed, any weapon -- handgun, shotgun, rifle, machinegun, anything -- any time, anywhere, without asking anyone's permission.

History will credit George Bush with altering the course of American politics forever, creating a viable three-party system by letting Libertarians walk away with five, ten, maybe even twenty million votes.

Just as California's Republican governor was banning semiautomatic weapons, canceling the Bill of Rights in that state, and the Republican-leaning National Rifle Association was throwing semiauto owners to the wolves, buying time for duck hunters and paper target punchers, the Jimmy Carter of the Republican Party was outlawing importation of semiautomatics and proposing federal laws similar to those in California.

Why is the GOP kissing off its most loyal and grimly determined voting bloc? It may be as simple and stupid as an internal party struggle, Bush 'pragmatists' differentiating themselves from Reagan 'ideologues'. If so, their timing is bad. Most Democrats now see gun control as a hideous error which turned several general elections into humiliating disasters. There's also a conspiratorial reek in the air: Nixon's CIA created both national antigun lobbies, maybe to disarm us all in preparation for a coup, more defense against the State. Power exercised by the State derives from the individual right and is inferior to it. Any attempt by the State to deny or limit this right constitutes criminal conflict of interest.

The individual right to self-defense demands repeal of any law: requiring licensing or registration of weapons, owners, makers, gunsmiths, or dealers; taxing ownership or transfer of weapons, accessories, parts, or ammunition; denying choice of manufacture, price, acquisition, carry, concealment or concealability, caliber, power or form of ammunition, configuration, acceptability, quality or safety, capacity, operating mode or rate; regulating local, interstate, or international transport or transfer of any weapon or associated items; restricting gas, electric, jointed, or edged weapons, impact-resistant clothing, or any protective device; or permitting the State or its employees to retain, sell, or destroy weapons taken from individuals.

The individual right to self-defense requires that agencies enforcing such laws be abolished, their records destroyed, that anyone arrested, indicted, or convicted under such laws receive unconditional release and restitution to all previous rights and property. Employees of such agencies (rather than taxpayers) will be responsible for restitution. Any public official who introduces, sponsors, or votes for such laws will be removed from office as the 14th Amendment provides and prosecuted under federal felony statutes for violating his oath to uphold the Constitution.

Gun people are ready. They have money and numbers, we have ideas. Sure, they're conservatives. There's plenty in our overall agenda to offend them. But it would be a mistake to apologize for that. Instead, tell them they can have everything they want if they understand that absolute political respect for the rights of others is the key.

Tell them no sane individual sacrifices rights he considers precious merely for the sake of imposing his tastes or opinions on others. Point out how some rights he considers precious merely for our overall agenda to offend them. But it would be a mistake to apologize for that. Instead, tell them they can have everything they want if they understand that absolute political respect for the rights of others is the key.

Encourage Republicans to make the only threat that counts to their own or any other party: NEXT TIME, I'M VOTING LIBERTARIAN.

Above all, don't wait for the next election. Anti-gunners made this a year-round issue at the federal, state, and local levels. Let gun people hear from non-party Libertarians, individual party members, state parties, think-tanks, the national organization, from all of us, without the usual bickering and nit-picking which often characterize our movement, and those five, ten, maybe even twenty million votes can be ours.
We the People who earn the money, or the
teeic: guess which gullible idiot, presently
Libertarians could do worse than to focus
national antigun lobbies, maybe to disarm
sitting in the White House, used to run
exclusively on this single issue for the
owners first and bureaucrats second.

Here's our chance to capitalize on the
next several years. More than a decade
workers think of themselves as home­
property taxes because even state
perceived treachery of a party which
obtain, own, and carry weapons of any
tax on residential market value], with excess taxes phased out over 10 years.

Whatever our overall strategy, we must
offer not just to defend the right to own
and carry weapons, but to extend it,
compelling the Republicans to discredit
ourselves even further by disavowing
our position or to trail weakly along
behind us.

Don't worry about anti-gunners. We
haven't been getting their support
anyway and never will. No matter what
they tell the opinion polls, they don't
vote this issue, while their opponents
vote nothing else. Ripping off five, ten,
maybe even twenty million pro-gun votes
from the Republican Party is well worth
whatever miniscule fraction of our usual
measly quarter-million we may lose by
turning off the wine and cheese set.

An effective position demands unflinch­
ing assertion of the following:

The right to self-defense is neither cond­
tional nor collective, but inherent in the
nature of each individual. It cannot be
granted or denied by kings or constitu­
tions, legislative or judicial acts, nor is it
subject to regulation or the democratic
process. It implies an unlimited right to
obtain, own, and carry weapons of any
kind. This includes the right to self­

THE PROBLEM: Runaway Taxes.
Property tax revenue since 1980: Up 128% . Average 1989 property tax rate: Up 11.1% . Colorado debt from
1980-87: Up 180% . Local taxes: 28% above national average. Local sales taxes: 3rd highest. 1991 gas tax:
Highest in U.S. Income tax revenue is up 179% since 1981 and growing 2.5 times faster than income. State
and local taxes per person are rising 3.5 times faster than inflation. TAXES ARE OUT OF CONTROL!

THE SOLUTION: Amendment One, the Taxpayer's Bill Of Rights (TABOR) Amendment.
1. Requires voter approval for higher tax rates, new debt, or fee increases above inflation or one dollar.
2. Except for voter-approved debt, limits total property tax rate to 69 mills (equals a 1% maximum tax on
residential market value], with excess taxes phased out over 10 years.
3. Holds State or property tax revenue increases to inflation plus State population change or local growth.

Exceptions by voters or for emergencies are allowed. 1991 local tax savings are about $17 million statewide,
less than 1% of property tax revenue. There is no cut in State government revenue. State funds will insure
against a loss of vital local services. $17 million is $5 per citizen and is what the State spends in just one day.

Amendment One doesn't tell governments how to spend tax money or what laws to pass. It doesn't freeze
their revenue, which will grow with the economy, but their share of our money should increase only by voter
approval. Giving them a blank check hasn't worked. Waiting 2-4 years after a tax hike to vote them out hasn't
worked. What other “employee” can take all the money he wants from his “employer” (us) without permission?

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Will you donate supplies, printing, office space, or other services? Will you do
clerical or phone work? Will you give money? In 1988, we got 568,549 votes (42 ½%) with very little money.
Amendment One has been revised to increase its appeal, but we must raise over $500,000 for advertising.
(The special interests fighting us always spend more.) $250, $100, $50, even $25 will help. Please mail your
contributions to the TABOR Committee, an all-volunteer campaign. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Say YES to more jobs and a healthy economy. Say YES to citizen control of government. Say YES to
Amendment One, the Taxpayer’s Bill Of Rights.

SHALL THERE BE AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X OF THE COLORADO
Constitution to require voter approval for certain State and
Local Government revenue Increases; to restrict Property,
Income, and Other Taxes; to limit the Rate of Increase in State
Spending; to change Property valuation and Assessment
Laws; and to provide for Additional Initiative and Referendum
Elections and for the mailing of Information to Registered
Voters?

Who should decide how much more government we can afford? We the People who earn the money, or the
politicians who want to spend it?

SAVE THE AMERICAN DREAM!
ON NOVEMBER 6TH, VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT ONE!
LNC Meets in Austin

The Libertarian National Committee met 28-29 April in Austin. The LNC heard reports from officers and subcommittees which indicated that most aspects of national LP operations are proceeding according to plan. Despite some problems with telephone fundraising and the pledge program, overall income is close to budget. Despite a less than enthusiastic response from most state parties to the membership contest, paid membership is at an all time high, and an expanded direct mail outreach other activities around the country. Bottemiller has so far made three regional tours this year. Dasbach reported on promising state legislative races, and the plan to provide national funding to one or more of them if they demonstrate a real chance to win. The NY gubernatorial candidate gave a presentation of his plans.

BAC Chair Steve Givot updated the LNC on plans for ballot access activities in various states. In response to continuing problems in communication between the BAC and the national office, the LNC restored to self-funded action committees (of which BAC is one) the responsibility for receiving and accounting for their own revenue, with the proviso that this

Photo by Nathalie Brait

The Libertarian National Committee meeting in Austin, Texas last month.

Drugs. Finance Chair Steve Alexander and National Chair Dave Walter explained the purpose of the letter and their intentions in writing about Lear. After hearing the varying interpretations of the letter offered by various LNC members and others, many LNC members were convinced that although there was never any intent to misrepresent Lear's beliefs or character, there was sufficient confusion about the wording that an apology was in order.

A letter of apology was approved, and it was further decided to notify all contributors of the controversy through an announcement in LP News and to offer a refund to any contributor who requested one. Ms. LaCross, however, refused to accept the apology, and when given a chance to address the LNC used the time to denounce Dave Walter (who as National Chair signed the fundraising letter), to continue expounding her view that the letter was a "malicious" attack on her fiance, and to demand that the money raised by the letter be transferred to some other organization.

The LNC reviewed several items relating to membership policy. Packets and cards are now being mailed on a regular basis. It was decided to allow each state party to determine whether its local affiliates may directly participate in the national membership rebate plan, rather than going through the state organization. A rebate or other cooperative arrangement for state parties in cases where members pay their dues directly to national is still under consideration.

Plans for new outreach literature, including a new issue of Liberty Today and a series of brochures based on the LP Program, were presented and discussed. The LNC directed the Program Committee to draft a new plank on The Environment.

FIJA Report

by Jim Glennie

FIJA is generating lots of excitement, especially among petitioners. It's really gratifying to see the light bulb go on in your listener's mind. Some respond with simple clarity: "Does it mean we can use our common sense in the courtroom?" Or, "Then we don't have to convict someone for violating an unjust law, do we?" Others, who were aware of the jury's power to judge the law, are disturbed to hear that most judges don't tell this to jurors, but instead try to mislead them into thinking that the jury's role is to determine guilt or innocence based solely on the factual evidence. And almost no one can resist the argument that defendants don't get fair trials when juries aren't told the truth. For how can we have justice without truth?

We are finding that about two thirds of those who stop to listen do sign the petition. During our last two petitioning weekends in grocery store parking lots we were obtaining from 15 to 20 signatures per hour (one every three to four minutes). An added benefit is discovering that there are many intelligent, perceptive, and caring people in our communities.

Although petitioning is going well, the large number of valid signatures required (51,000) makes it imperative that more
program continues to bring in new members and contributions. Continuing complaints about slow reporting of financial information and performance problems in the national office were discussed. The Auditor and the Management Committee will be working on an operational audit to identify areas for improvement.

The LNC heard reports from Regional Representatives, Field Coordinator Marla Bottemiller, and Affiliate Campaigns Chair Steve Dasbach about campaign and function can be switched back to the office at any time if the National Chair finds that financial reporting is inadequate.

The LNC considered the controversy generated by a January fundraising letter which used the name of Phillip Lear, a soldier who was killed in the invasion of Panama. Lear’s fiancee, Jeniece LaCross, and others had objected to the use of his name and what they understood as an implication that Lear was an unwilling victim of the invasion and the War on Drugs.

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The LNC continued the process of trimming back its set of standing resolutions. After some discussion, a long detailed resolution on coalitions was deleted, and resolutions relating to signing of fundraising letters and chairmanship of subcommittees were simplified. In addition, eleven other obsolete or redundant resolutions were repealed with no objection.

In other business, the LNC discussed possibilities for the 1990 employee bonus plan, made minor corrections to the report of the 1989 convention, and approved changes in the contract for the 1991 convention that had been requested by LEI, the convention organizers. A deadline of 1 Oct 1990 was set for the submission of bids for the 1993 convention, and there was a brief discussion of preparations that would need to be made if the presidential nominating convention for 1996 were to be held in that year rather than in 1995.

The LNC endorsed FIJA and passed a resolution on Lithuania.

The next meeting will be 11-12 August in San Francisco.

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Robin Heid for Governor

continued from page 1

working relationship with Libertarians who support his Institute's work, and he was a speaker at the state convention.

But in making his recent move into politics, Andrews has sought to distance himself from the Libertarian label. He was quoted in the Rocky Mountain News as saying that he felt "out of place" at the LP convention, and he has refused to join other prominent conservatives in publicly endorsing the legalization of drugs. His campaign brochure emphasizes economic issues, and makes no mention of the increasingly important question of gun control, an issue where the Republican label by itself has been shown by George Bush to be no guarantee of anything.

Regardless of who wins the support of the Republicans, the Libertarian Party with Robin Heid will be presenting the voters of Colorado with a real choice for a complete "freedom agenda" - both personal and economic liberty. In order to appear on the ballot in November, Heid and LP candidates for other statewide office will each have to gather 1000 signatures on a petition. If you would like to help with this project, please call and leave a message at the CLP office, 303-837-9393.

Next Year on the Western Slope

Past state chair Ron Bain has taken on the task of organizing the 1991 CLP convention, and is planning for the gathering to be held in Glenwood Springs or some other Western Slope community.

ISIL Announces World Conference

The International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) has announced details of the Libertarian World Conference to be held in San Francisco this summer.

Major topics of the conference will be World Environmentalism and The Future of Freedom in the 1990s. Speakers will include Milton Friedman, Carl Hagen of the Norwegian Progress Party, Leon Louw and Frances Kendall, Barbara Brandon, Peter Breggin, Ron Paul, Walter Block, and many others.

The event will incorporate the Future of Freedom Conference and the Advocates for Self Government Summit, and the Libertarian National Committee and the LP Council of State Chairs will be holding their meetings during the conference - truly an event with something for every sort of Libertarian!

The conference will be held 10-14 August. For a conference brochure, call 415-864-0952.

Women in Libertarianism

Mary Margaret Glennie, organizer of recent CLP state conventions, has announced a "sexist, discriminatory, preferential, special-interest conference" to be held in Ft. Collins next year.

Titled "Women in Libertarianism", the conference will explore such topics as "women in the libertarian movement", "attracting more women to libertarianism", and "women's view of libertarian men".

While men will be welcome (and even encouraged) to attend the conference, the

Colorado Libertarian Directory

Colorado Libertarian Party
Headquarters 303-837-9393
720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, CO 80203

Other Organizations
Advocates for Self Government
Marshall Fritz 800-932-1776
5533 E. Swift, Fresno, CA 93727
The annual convention, which has been held in Ft. Collins for the last several years, features speakers and panels on subjects of interest to Libertarians, as well as a business meeting at which CLP officers are selected and changes to the bylaws and platform are considered.

Can Libertarianism Be Fun?
by Kevin Bloom

Mongo Stack, a new humor magazine, published its first issue on April 1st, with an initial press run of 20,000. The second issue came out on schedule May 1st, with a cover illustration of our favorite Czar.

Mongo is different from other rags in that it deliberately pokes fun at politicians, from a libertarian perspective. Libertarians contributing during the first two issues include myself, Ron Bain, David Bryant, Bob Glass, and Charles Curley. Both covers were drawn by Tim Johnson.

The magazine has also formed a group called the Fun Party, which has a "Libertarian Lite" philosophy. Instead of a traditional convention, we have scheduled a concert at the Boulder Theater on July 22nd. The Tremblors will be playing. We are working on campus outreach, and have members from San Diego, California to Auburn, Maine.

A six month subscription is $10. Send to Mongo Stack, 487 Lakeshore Park Road, Boulder, CO 80302, or call 303-642-7158. Submissions are welcome. We pay $10 for each story submitted.
When the U.S. Constitution was enacted in 1789, many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence refused to support it. They objected that it gave far too much power to the Federal government, and protection of individual rights was far too weak. Benjamin Franklin was a particularly strong dissenter. He commented that the Constitution would work for a while, but would undoubtedly lead to tyranny within 200 years.

Today, almost exactly 200 years after the enactment of the Constitution, Franklin's prophecy is on the verge of becoming reality. A combination of coercive legislation and outrageous court decisions have already seriously compromised our rights. Now, in the name of "winning the war on drugs," our remaining legal rights are about to be destroyed.

On February 22, 1990, George Washington's birthday, Congressman Newt Gingrich and 47 co-sponsors introduced HR 4079, "The National Drug and Crime Emergency Act." Some of the incredible features of this 96-page bill include:

* Declaration of a five year "national state of emergency" (in essence, martial law) to combat drug and alcohol use.
* Universal testing of Americans for drug and alcohol use.
* Mass expulsion of drug and alcohol users from public and private high schools and colleges, and firing any workers who use drugs.
* Stepped up confiscation of cars, boats, planes and other property of causal drug users.
* Establishment of new, much higher mandatory sentences for drug and alcohol use. Previous maximum sentences would become minimum sentences.
* Revocation of probation, parole, and suspended sentences.
* Reopening World War II Japanese concentration camps; creation of a new, private prison system; and use of active and inactive military bases as prisons, to house millions of American substance offenders for "reeducation."
* Effective suspension of the 4th Amendment to the Bill of Rights (prohibiting unreasonable searches and seizures), the 8th Amendment (protection against excessive fines, bail or punishment), and habeas corpus (elimination of the requirement that Americans arrested be brought before a court and charged).

Suspension of these Constitutional protections mean that police will have the legal right to break into any home without a search warrant, arrest any person, and hold them without charge indefinitely. Suspected
Who defends your right to choose or refuse military service?

Volunteering to defend your homeland against aggressors is a noble and heroic tradition. Forcing people to serve in the armed forces against their will is immoral and dangerous. It encourages irresponsible foreign policy and lowers the quality of our armed forces: "slaves make poor defenders of freedom!"

The Libertarian Party
DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY
1-800-682-1776
1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE · Washington, DC 20003

RIDDING MYSELF OF THE INCOME TAX, SEND 500 TO FRANK PEARL, 61 S. JULIAN #1-2, DNVR 80219

PLEASE MAKE THAT 5 FRNs. SEALED INNER ENVELOPE WITHIN SEALED OUTER ENVELOPE.

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Include 50¢ for shipping on orders under $5, 10% on larger orders.

Include 50¢ for shipping on orders under $5, 10% on larger orders.

Amendment of the laws governing prison labor to allow the government to purchase goods manufactured by prisoners -- in effect, slave labor.

Up to 30 million Americans could be imprisoned under HR 4079. Enforcement costs could exceed $3 trillion.

Although this Bill supposedly targets drug and alcohol "abusers," don't think you are safe, even if you don't use either. If this Bill is passed, the Bill of Rights will be in effect suspended, and anyone will be subject to arrest and imprisonment for any reason and without legal recourse.

For the past decade libertarians have warned that the War on Drugs is really a war on liberty. During the same period, our national media and our "representatives" in Washington have been waging a propaganda campaign to convince us that America is in the midst of a drug emergency, and that no cost is too high to end the crisis -- including huge increases in taxes and abrogation of the Bill of Rights. Police power and drug arrests have drastically increased, but the violence has only gotten worse.

The violence associated with drug use is a direct consequence of drug prohibition and repression. The government's "solution" to the violence it has itself created, is suspension of the Constitution and a police state. The rational and humane alternative to drug violence is decriminalization and education.

It is now time to decide once and for all what America stands for. Does freedom mean "obedience to law" and slavery? Does social peace require an all-out war by the government against the American people? Do we have a right to control our own bodies and lives, or are we the property of the state?

If you stand for liberty and want to preserve it for yourself and your country, write your Congressmen now and tell them what you think of this Bill and its supporters. If you want America to become a police state, simply do nothing -- the government will do everything for you, probably for the rest of your life.

Write your Congressmen and Senators now. Use your freedom of speech today, to fight tyranny while you still can. Tomorrow will be too late.
Suit Against Governor Picking Up Steam
American Constitutional Law Foundation
News Update
30 April 1990
by Bill Orr

We've been extremely busy working for you on the Romer case. I am pleased to report that your Foundation is making good headway. Your contributions are being used to do great things. As most of you know, Romer lost all his various motions last month before Federal Judge Richard Matsch. However, the Judge placed us under an extremely tight discovery schedule (in which we have until May 25 to complete). We've got quite some way to go. The court has also ordered that all parties file motions for summary judgement on the undisputed facts by June 5th.

In the course of our discovery, we are learning the details of how the governor abused his office in the fight against #6. For example, when we filed the suit, we knew that the governor had used his official state stationery to misrepresent the petition - to inflame the sovereign voters against it! We were told that one or more of the critical letters which had been sent to the school boards, etc., did not exist. We were then later told by Romer's attorneys, after they knew that we knew they existed, "that maybe they had been mistakenly destroyed", after the law suit had been filed. But we persevered and after two depositions of the governor's employees, we learned that they probably existed, and that they were being stored in the governor's press office - where they were supposed to be.

Perhaps fearing sanctions from the court, several of the letters were recently found. I've included two for your reading pleasure [reproduced below]. They are doozies! As you can see they contain one misrepresentation after another.

The letters were unfortunately very effective, because just about everybody in and out of government, to some degree, relied upon them. They were used directly (or reformed unto other governmental stationery) and distributed throughout the state, to the largest employers, labor unions, school districts, fire districts, police personnel, and the like! They were used to raise money and organize opposition against the petition. It even appears, that based upon the official misrepresentations, schools and others staged rallies and predicted dire consequences.

Large companies came to the governor's aid! Some perhaps out of self interest. For example Blue Cross and Blue Shield quickly ante'd up $5000 and solicited their employees with a joint letter from both the Governor and Blue Cross's chief exec. We have reason to believe that Blue Cross later received a large government contract from the state of Colorado. Similar events appear to have occurred with U.S. West, who used regulated user fees to help the governor fight the amendment. We will be deposing the Presidents of both of these corporations very soon (pending our limited funds).

We have also learned that the Governor obtained help from large investment banking houses, including Prudential Bache and Bear Stearns. Interestingly, it appears that Bear Stearns, Blue Cross, Seagarms (and perhaps others) thought it appropriate to deliver their contributions directly to the governor's office. One $10,000 check was delivered to Romer acknowledging that it was for the "President of Colorado." Members can get updates on the depositions through our new telephone hot line: to become a member, send a contribution to ACLF at 2075 S. University Blvd., #240, Denver, CO 80210.

We are making good headway, our discovery expenses are eating us alive. We have national experts who sympathize with our precedent setting legal action and who will provide critical testimony, but we can't afford them. Without them and the other items of discovery which we desperately need - we could lose this law suit!

We desperately need your financial help! Please dig deep into your pockets to help preserve individual freedom.
October 14, 1988

Dear Superintendent and School Board President:

I write to you today about a matter of utmost urgency. As you know, Amendment 6, the so-called tax limitation amendment, will be on the November 8 ballot. A strong bipartisan coalition, including the leadership of the state Legislature, the business community, educators and citizens, has joined me in opposition to this amendment. We must mobilize now, in every district of the state, to inform voters of the damage this amendment would cause to our school system.

If passed, Amendment 6 would require a vote of the people for any change in tax policy that causes an increase in revenue. Furthermore, any debt or bond-financing would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the electorate, allowing a minority to control the process. Such votes could only occur at a general election. Loss of state revenue from income tax and property tax could be almost one-half billion dollars in the next fiscal year. This includes almost $270 million in lost property taxes, $150 million in lost income taxes and about $60 million in personal property tax credits.

You recently received a packet of information from the Colorado Association of School Executives on the subject of Amendment 6. Included was a report from the Commission on School Finance detailing the financial result for your district if Amendment 6 passes. I ask the superintendents and school board members to work together with the experts in your district to map a proposal for dealing with such an outcome. Some districts may see their only option as increasing class size, other districts may have to eliminate programs. Design your plan very specifically, because this is the best way to communicate to voters that Amendment 6 will touch them personally. Please send that information by Monday, October 24, to Education Commissioner William Randall, and send a copy to your local newspaper or radio station.

You play a critical role in keeping this devastating amendment out of our state Constitution. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor

October 28, 1988

Dear Employee:

Your help is needed to defeat Amendment 6. This amendment is advertised as a tax limitation measure. But that is not the full story. If passed, Amendment 6 will devastate Colorado’s economic future.

Amendment 6 will reduce state and local revenue by almost one-half billion dollars in the next fiscal year. We will not be able to compete with other states for good jobs and a prosperous economic future.

- The amendment will cut $230 million out of public education. School districts will eliminate classes and subjects. Companies will not come to Colorado if we fail to educate the work force. Our children will not be able to compete.
- Essential services will be reduced. There will be less fire and police protection. We will not have the money necessary to build new prisons or house criminals in the prisons presently being constructed.
- Water, sewer and road repair and construction will be reduced.
- Agricultural property taxes will increase dramatically. The rural economy, including rural business, will be crippled.
- Amendment 6 eliminates representative government as Colorado has known it for 100 years. It is unworkable.
- It requires a vote of the people to raise taxes, fees, licenses or permits. A vote would be necessary to raise college tuition rates, swimming pool fees, marriage licenses and other minor rate increases.
- Debt financing for water and sewer projects and highways will be prohibited unless approved by two-thirds of the electorate -- a small minority could control the process. Colorado’s bond rating will collapse.

We are part of a bipartisan coalition, including the Republican and Democratic leadership of the Colorado Legislature, the business community, educators and citizens, who oppose Amendment 6. We ask you to join our coalition. You can play a critical role in keeping this devastating amendment out of our state constitution. Vote “NO” on Amendment 6 and actively encourage others to do likewise. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer
Governor
Colorado Libertarian Calendar

Denver 19 May
CLP Board of Directors, at headquarters.

Ft. Collins 21 May
Cocktail party, 7pm at Mary Margaret & Jim Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Drive; 484-8184.

Statewide 25-28 May
FIJA petitioning weekend. Contact Jim Glennie, 303-484-8184.

Colorado Springs 2 June
Meeting/party at 4pm; call 633-2433 for location.

Denver 5 June
Cocktail party, 7:30pm at 1450 Adams; 321-6780.

Ft. Collins 18 June
Cocktail party, 7pm at Mary Margaret & Jim Glennie's, 1317 Lakewood Drive; 484-8184.

Statewide 22-25 June
FIJA petitioning weekend. Contact Jim Glennie, 303-484-8184.

San Francisco 10-14 August

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Robin Heid on the Issues
Position No 1: Why we must relegalize drugs.
Books for Eastern Europe

Several libertarian organizations are engaged in efforts to bring freedom-oriented books to the newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe. Your donations of books or money are welcome:

For Estonia
ISIL, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102

For Lithuania
LP of Wisconsin, c/o Mary Roffers, 2462 Lake Shore Rd., Grafton, WI 53024

For Romania
Libertarian Foundation for Human Assistance, Fr. Haverschmidtlaan 31, 3116 JK Schiedam, Holland.

I'm a Libertarian wannabe! Sign me up! Here's my check or money order and all the information you'll need to keep me informed about the burgeoning Freedom Movement in Colorado, in America, and in the World:

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(Please make checks payable to Colorado Libertarian Party; we'll forward to LP)