Colorado LP Vote Resists Nationwide Downtrend

By David F. Nolan

Final figures were not yet available as we went to press, but the data we have indicates that Libertarian vote totals in most "flagship" races (Governor and U.S. Senate contests) around the nation dropped sharply from the level established by Ed Clark in 1980.

As expected, the highest percentage in a governor's race was achieved in Alaska, where Dick Randolph got 15% (about 25,000 votes) in a three-way race. To achieve this showing, the Randolph campaign spent about $500,000.

Second-best showing was in Arizona, where former GOP Congressman Sam Steiger got just over 5% — enough to qualify the Arizona LP for ballot status. Steiger's campaign spent $5,000.

Grant Third in Nation

Our own Paul Grant apparently made the third-best percentage showing of the LP's 21 gubernatorial candidates. Complete but unofficial figures show Paul with more than 19,000 votes — a hair over 2%, as compared to 2.2% in Colorado for Ed Clark in 1980. As far as we knew at press time, no other LP gubernatorial candidate hit the 2% mark.

In California, Dan Dougherty pulled about 78,000 votes — just over 1%, and only one fifth of Ed Clark's showing in that race four years ago. Dougherty had far less funding, however, and this year's race was much more closely contested than the 1978 election.

In Massachusetts, Rebecca Shipman received about 1% of the vote for governor; Bay State Libertarians had been hoping for 3%, to obtain ballot status.

States where LP gubernatorial hopefuls fell below the 1% line include New York, Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. In most of these states, the dropoff from the Clark total two years ago was substantial.

Senate Races

U.S. Senate candidates fared no better, for the most part.

Best showing was Larry Dodge's 4% in Montana — roughly equal to the high-water mark for a U.S. Senate race set by Tonie Nathan in Oregon two years ago.

In California, Joe Fuhrig (backed strongly by the LP Radical Caucus) received slightly over 100,000 votes, pulling nearly 1.5% in the hotly-contested race between Jerry Brown and Pete Wilson. Fuhrig appears to be the only LP candidate for Governor or U.S. Senator who broke the 100,000 mark this time.

At the time we went to press, there was no news of any other Senate candidates doing better than 1.5%. As with the gubernatorial contenders, many fell below 1%.

Colorado a Bright Spot

Relatively speaking, Colorado was a bright spot for Libertarians. Paul Grant virtually matched the percentage Ed Clark received here in 1980, and real gains were made in lower-level races.

Wain Dawson and Jim Phelps each got about 2.5% of the vote in their races for Treasurer and Secretary of State, while Suzanne Conlon pulled approximately 4% in the Regent's race. (Third-party vote is almost always higher in lower-level races.) Wain, Jim and Suzanne each topped 10% in some counties.

Phil Prosser received 21% in a two-way race for State House — one of the nation's best showings in such a contest. And John Hartman got 23% in a race for Rio Blanco County Commissioner.

Private Courts: Moving Away From Governmental Justice

By Carolyn Phelps

Private courts in Colorado? Well not quite, but there is a growing movement toward private dispute resolution through arbitration, mediation, or a combination of the two. In situations the couple is often able to keep the primary issue, the welfare of the children, at the forefront. Instead of looking for reasons
Private courts in Colorado? Well not quite, but there is a growing movement toward private dispute resolution through arbitration, mediation, or a combination of the two. As our courts become more efficient, the welfare of the children, at the forefront. Instead of looking for reasons why one side is right and one side is wrong, a mediator enables the needs of both parties to be maximized. Because the disputing parties themselves reach agreement, instead of succumbing to the impersonal court system, their agreement is more likely to be long-lasting and beneficial to both parties.

Neighborhood disputes, commercial relations, landlord-tenant disputes, cases involving juveniles, and even some civil cases are being resolved through private conflict resolution. Environmental mediation and arbitration has been a boon to both business and environmental interests. ROMCO, the Center for Environmental Problem Solving in Boulder, is currently working with the Metro Water Roundtable, a project created to improve water quality. Representatives include County Commissioners from the Western Slope, The Denver Water Board, Mayor McNichols, the Mayor of Vail, and environmental groups. The project was underway a year ago with the goal to balance the needs of the Western Slope, the environment, and water storage. Environmental and land use disputes are particularly suited to private dispute resolution because of the technical expertise required to make a fair, just decision. Again, the final resolution is more productive, less time consuming, and less expensive than litigation would have been.

Private mediation and arbitration have in recent years become a highly successful profession. Statistics show private dispute resolution is a more cost-effective and just way to settle conflicts. Follow up studies on conflicts resolved through mediation indicate that the agreements tend to be more durable, the disputants are less likely to return to court, and the final agreement is more likely to leave both parties satisfied.

People have found private dispute resolution to be less expensive and more satisfying, but more than this they have found it to be a better way to resolve conflicts. Unlike the courts, which foster an adversary, you lose, I win, situation, private dispute resolution gives people the opportunity to make their own decisions and take responsibility for their own lives rather than leave important decisions to the discretion of an expensive attorney and an assigned judge.

However, the trend toward legislation...
Profile of a Libertarian: DAVE NOLAN

SOUND MONEY, NO DRAFT, NO INCOME TAX, NO WAR!

By Bob Sheffield

With that bumper sticker battle cry of his latest effort, Project Liberty, Dave Nolan returns to his libertarian political roots. In 1965, Dave joined the Liberty Amendment Committee and started its National Youth Council. The Liberty Amendment proposed by that group would, among other things, repeal the sixteenth amendment to the Constitution. Then, after more than a decade and a half of battling for freedom, Dave and Murray Rothbard started Project Liberty this year, one of the four primary goals of which is passage of the Liberty Amendment, designed to eliminate the income tax by repealing the sixteenth amendment.

Not that the Liberty Amendment Committee was Dave’s first involvement in politics. Being born in Washington D.C., he was, you might say, born into politics. He majored in political science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1965, he was one of the first five people to graduate from MIT with a political science degree. His first real entry into active politics was inspired by an Independence Day Goldwater rally in 1968. During the 1964 presidential campaign, Dave was the Massachusetts youth coordinator for Goldwater.

From the beginning of his political career, Dave has been starting things. At MIT, he started the Radicals for Capitalism, a coalition of Objectivists, Goldwater conservatives, and others started the Libertarian Party, an event that for many of us has become a special moment in history.

Dave was the Libertarian Party’s first National Chair. He was on the National Committee from the beginning until 1981 except for a period from 1977 to 1979. He has been editor of the Colorado Liberty and a prolific contributor to other libertarian publications. Rarely does one find such outstanding, even prophetic, ideas coming from a man who also knows how to work in the trenches, doing the tough, real world organizing that transforms ideas from words to deeds.

In 1981, at about the time of LP10, the tenth anniversary convention of the Libertarian Party, Dave sharply reduced his political activities. He quit his job with a large Denver advertising agency and started his own marketing and communications consulting firm, AdPro Associates, inc. operating out of an office in his home. He is dropping back from the furious pace of a full-time job and full-time involvement in Libertarian politics to a more laid back life style. His office, casual and comfortable but strictly in order, is furnished with desk, chair, a comfortable couch for his guests, bookshelves all around, and a new computer named Ralph on which Dave does his writing. He shares his home with an affectionate kitten named Miss Kitty.

Except for writing campaign literature for Paul Grant’s gubernatorial race and participating in strategy sessions, Dave is concentrating his political energies on Project Liberty. The purpose of Project Liberty is to focus on a limited number of hard core libertarian issues which have a wide enough appeal to attract people of other political persuasions such as pro-freedom, pro-individual-rights, certain tolerant and rational constitutionalists, and non-socialist anti-militarists. Project Liberty pursues three goals directly which, taken together, will result in achieving a fourth. The three direct goals are: sound money, elimination of the draft, and elimination of the personal income tax. Together, they will make war very difficult to wage, thus achieving the fourth goal.

For more on Dave and his involvement in the libertarian movement, see "Present at the Creation", a May 1981 interview with Dave in Volume 9, Number 10 of Against the Wall. For a history of the Libertarian movement see Dave’s article "The Road to Liberty" in the

Kudos and Gold Stars Dept.

The good folks listed below in no particular order put in a huge amount of effort, for which we humbly offer this inadequate recognition. If you run into any of these heroes in the fight for liberty, why not thank them yourselves?

Ruth B. for being our "rock", always there when you need her — being our chair extraordinaire.
Jan Prince for not only enormous amounts
Dave has been starting things. At MIT, he started the Radicals for Capitalism, a coalition of Objectivists, Goldwater conservatives, and libertarians. In 1969, he and others started the Society for Individual Liberty, a libertarian education group. And, on December 11, 1971, in his living room in Denver, he and seven others started the 1984 Libertarian Party presidential nomination and the candidates for National Chair of the LP.

SPEND MEMORIAL DAY IN STEAMBOAT!

The Sheraton Steamboat in Steamboat Springs has been chosen as the site for the CLP 1983 State Convention. The convention, to be held over Memorial Day weekend, promises to be fun, entertaining and educational.

While the program is not yet set, suggested speakers include 1976 Presidential candidate, Roger MacBride, economist/philosopher Murray Rothbard, the candidates for the 1984 Libertarian Party presidential nomination and the candidates for National Chair of the LP.

As usual, we will be doing revisions of our Constitution, By-Laws, and Platform, and selecting new state party officers and Board members. But in addition, we will be choosing the delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention to be held in New York over Labor Day weekend.

In order to be eligible to vote at the state convention or to be a delegate to New York you must be a current member of the Colorado Libertarian Party. Membership forms are available from the State Headquarters.

More information about the State Convention will be available after the first of the year. Mark your new calendars to reserve Memorial Day weekend for the best Colorado LP State Convention yet! See you in Steamboat!

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Saving "Colorado’s Water"

Throughout this past election, non-libertarian candidates have been mouthing the standard line that they will "Fight to Save Colorado’s Water." What this means is that they intend to steal some money from some people somewhere, (through taxation), to build a dam in Colorado, to provide more water to some Coloradans.

Let’s look at this from a libertarian viewpoint. First, common sense tells us that the more economical water storage projects have already been built. The projects left are marginal, or money losing propositions. Second, all such projects are nothing but subsidies. Taxpayers are forced to pay for a system to provide more water to some special interest, be it farmers, communities, or industry.

But most importantly, it’s not even "Colorado’s water" we are talking about. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that because five major river systems, the Yampa, Colorado, Rio Grande, Arkansas, and Platte, all originate in the state and flow out, that the state somehow owns that water. Libertarians, on the other hand, subscribe to the principle that legitimate ownership occurs in two ways. The most common is by working long enough to buy something currently owned by someone else. The other way is through a variation of homesteading. In the case of something not previously owned, like land in the early west, river water, or a new idea for a better mousetrap, the first person to put that thing to beneficial use can claim ownership. The principle is used all the time. The first person in line to buy a movie ticket has that spot for as long as he uses it. The first person to pick up an aluminum can in the gutter owns that can and may recycle it for profit.

Under these principles, for the state to wave its hand and claim ownership of certain water is arbitrary and meaningless. The state has not, in Locke’s immortal words, “mixed its labor with the soil, (or other resource) to gain possession.”

Ownership of water should accrue to the person or company who first diverts the water to some use, regardless of what state he or she is in. Disputes as to who first used it can be, and presently are, resolved by the courts.

Thus we see a double fallacy in “saving Colorado’s water.” First, it doesn’t in any moral or reasonable way belong to Colorado, and second, saving it involves stealing through taxation to build the facilities to do so.

So, to the Republicans and Democrats; please don’t save Colorado’s water; rather save us, the taxpayers, from paying for the pork barrel.

YOUR VIEWS

Editor:
Should I wish to study the positions of Paul Grant (or any other candidate for public office), I would write, telephone, or visit the candidate’s campaign headquarters, or his party’s headquarters, and request statements of those opinions. Most of your readers, I suspect, would do the same.

But not Colorado Liberty. Rather you admit (or boast) that Colorado Liberty gets its information from “clandestine sources.” I submit to you, Sir, that a candidate’s documents and his prepared statements are personal property, to which you have no right unless that right is voluntarily given by its owner. To obtain those documents, or those intangible statements, by use of force, fraud, or clandestine sources, may be acceptable journalism and acceptable politics, but is a violation of property rights and therefore of libertarian principles.

“Clandestine sources!” The term smacks of the parties of Watergate and wiretapping. It has no place in the Party of Principle. Shame on you.

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the author, not necessarily those of the Colorado Libertarian Party. Likewise, advertising does not imply endorsement.

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How Others View Us

The following editorial appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, three days after the election. It is reprinted here for two reasons.

First, the deafening silence from the “establishment” until now was mostly because they did not believe we were strong enough to be worth commenting on. Now, apparently, we are.

But secondly, this should be taken as a fairly accurate representation of how the world views us. Ponder it well.

- The Libertarians didn’t do so hot in the state this year. And you know something? We’re glad. These folks are as extreme in their horror of government as socialists are in their statistim. While there may be something appealing in the Libertarians’ philosophical purity, many of their ideas are utterly goofy. And there is something more than a little unbecoming in the Libertarians’ smugness. If there comes a day when many of them actually are elected to office, they will discover that making and administering laws in a democracy can’t be done without the kinds of ideological compromises they so detest.

Lenin was certainly right, there is no surer means of overturning the basis of existing society than to debauch the currency. This process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner not one man in a million is able to diagnose.

—John Maynard Keynes

The history of every government since the dawn of time is one of increasing power and decreasing stability.

—Douglas R. Casey

WEEKEND LIBERTARIANS

Do you have trouble attending Colorado Libertarian evening functions due to distance, job conflicts, family, or other commitments? If there is enough interest, I would like to set up Saturday or Sunday afternoon activities such as socializing, discussion groups, study programs, or volunteer work. If this appeals to you, please contact Paul Bilici, 2507 South Evanston Street, Aurora, CO 80014. Thanks!

Private Courts
(Cont’d from page 1)

designed to give mediation and arbitration “credibility” and to guarantee funding, is a threat to the concept of voluntary, private conflict resolution.

Currently in Colorado, a bill has been drafted and sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association to establish an office of dispute resolution in the Governors office. The purpose of such an office will be to promote, establish and encourage mediation, ensure confidentiality, and of course to appropriate money. This last, money, is the driving force behind the legislation. This means that the taxpayer will foot the bill. All for the “public good” of course.

If private arbitration and mediation become incorporated into the “public” court system, the idea that people can make their own decisions and resolve their own conflicts will be squelched again. As in California, where even mediation and arbitration aren’t voluntary anymore, any semblance of a private, voluntary court system will be ensnared in governmental compulsion.
"A RINGING CALL TO ACTION. NO LIBERTARIAN SHOULD BE WITHOUT THIS BOOK."

"The power to tax is the power to violate human rights, and it must be opposed on moral grounds by all concerned for human liberty."

—Dick Randolph

The income tax... is the root of the malignant tree of Big Government. Lay the axe to that root, abolish the income tax, repeal the 16th Amendment, and the tree of tyranny will wither and die. America will take a great leap to reclaim the ideal of liberty, of ultra-minimal government, on which this country was founded.

—Murray N. Rothbard

"Joe Cobb presents compelling arguments why repeal of the 16th Amendment should be a central element — perhaps the central issue — of Libertarian campaigns in 1982 and 1984."

—David F. Nolan

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