LP Condemns "High-Tech Censorship" Bill

by Richard G. Combs

The national Libertarian Party reacted quickly and angrily to the June 15 passage by the Senate of a telecommunications reform bill containing sweeping new censorship laws aimed at electronic communications. A June 16 press release strongly condemns the "Communications Decency Act," sponsored by Senators James Exon (D-NE) and Dan Coats (R-IN).

LP Chair Steve Dasbach described the bill as "a case of 20th-century politicians using 19th-century laws to control 21st-century technology."

The censorship amendment was added to the communications deregulation measure by an 84-16 vote of the Senate on June 14. It punishes the electronic dissemination of "obscene" and "indecent" material with fines of up to $100,000 and prison terms of up to two years.

"Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly lined up to support this high-tech censorship," said Dasbach. "It was bi-partisan at its worst. Apparently there's no gridlock in Washington when it comes to gutting the First Amendment."

Dasbach dismissed Sen. Exon's claim that the measures were necessary to protect children. The marketplace is providing a growing number of ways for parents to block their children from accessing objectional material via the Internet, and the commercial services such as America Online and Prodigy offer "lock-outs" so that parents can limit their children to certain areas of the service.

Dasbach insisted that, in any case, "parents, not Justice Department bureaucrats, should determine what children see, hear, or download. It's especially hypocritical for Republicans, who see High-Tech Censorship, page 4

Libertarian Media Blitz Week

by Hal Dunn (via the Internet)

Libertarian activists, prepare to send a persuasive message during Libertarian Media Blitz Week! The Fourth of July, 1995 will kick off the first annual Libertarian Media Blitz.

Libertarian activists will be blitzing newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, magazines, and online services with faxes, pamphlets, letters, phone calls, e-mails, and WSPQs (World's Smallest Political Quizzes).

Americans are getting fed up with politics as usual, Democrats in particular, and especially big government. The LMBW could become a new holiday like April 15 is Tax Protest Day. Imagine if we all saved up some persuasive ideas and unloaded them all at the same time on newspapers, radio and TV stations, magazines, online services, etc.

Join in the celebration of America's Independence Day, the Fourth of July, by participating in:

Libertarian Media Blitz Week
July 1 - July 8 1995

Membership Director Larry Hoffenberg holds the CD-ROM "Colorado Voters, Version 1" from Quick Info. The disc contains the entire voter registration list of Colorado. Photo by Richard Combs.
To the Editor:

It's so sad that hundreds of people, including children, were blown up in Oklahoma. It's such a tragedy, such a horror, that almost no one will see beneath the blood and gore to the greater catastrophe (and I don't say this to demean the memory of those who lost their lives) underneath—further gutting of the Bill of Rights in the name of anti-terrorism measures.

The apathy (and for some, the joy) with which our fellow citizens will give up their rights for what they perceive as safety is the third and by far the deepest tragedy of them all.

I've registered as a Libertarian every time I've registered to vote, and proclaimed myself one when asked my political affiliation, but it's sad that it takes a calamity of these proportions for me to put my money where my mouth is. Unfortunately, I fear it is a futile gesture. We both know that most people don't know that the third amendment to the Bill of Rights is the only one we'll have left in short order, and wouldn't care if they did, since they never cared what the other nine said anyway.

We also both know that both the media and the government will brand anyone who points out our continuing erosion of freedom as an extremist, as naive or misguided, or as a terrorist sympathizer. The Rocky Mountain News ran an article about the "Patriot" movement and lumped the libertarians right in with the militia groups that the government is blaming (and perhaps not incorrectly) for the Oklahoma City bombing. Doubtless most people don't know any better than to put us in that category also.

I once talked to this pagan girl who embraced libertarian principles, but refused to believe that Libertarians aren't a Christian conspiracy trying to establish a theocracy. When I tell people I'm a Libertarian, I'm likely to hear any number of silly opinions about us, and where they all come from I'm not sure.

My point? (Finally!) Even if we tell people about the threat to our liberty and try our best to clear up the misconceptions about the Libertarian Party, they probably still won't care. It's possible the government might decide we're a threat and might sic the FBI (or worse, the IRS) on all our members. And we probably won't even slow down the march to totalitarianism.

It would probably be smarter to lay low and not be associated with the Libertarians, but I don't want to do the smart thing. I want to do the right thing. I'll contribute what money I can, seeing as how I don't make much in the first place and I get quite a bit stolen from me by you-know-who. And if you need help stuffing envelopes or whatever, I'll see what I can do.

Sincerely,
Scott Williams
Denver

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LP Membership

Join the Libertarian Party today and help the cause of Freedom in 1995. State dues include Colorado Liberty subscription. National dues include LP News. Note: Renewing with National does not renew your state membership.

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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature ____________________________

(Signature is required only for national membership.)

What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the initiation of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you do have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical or religious goals.

This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

Make checks payable to:
Libertarian Party of Colorado
720 E. 18th Ave., #309 Denver CO 80203

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Colorado Liberty

A publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

David Aitken, Chairman and Publisher
Richard G. Combs, Publications Director and Editor

Subscription is included in party membership. Members by voter registration must notify LPC annually to reaffirm their membership and renew their subscription. Paid subscriptions are $6 per year. Make checks payable and send all correspondence to:

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Denver, Colorado 80203

Editorial Policy: This publication serves as an open forum for libertarian news and commentary. All remarks made in open meetings will be considered "on the record." We invite submissions (they cannot be returned) of material to the above address. Content decisions are at the sole discretion of the editor and publisher. Opinions expressed in Colorado Liberty are not necessarily the official positions of the Libertarian Party.

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Affiliate News

—— Adams County ——
This new group is having its second organizational meeting on July 10, 7 p.m., at Coco’s Restaurant, located at the Northglenn Mall on 104th Avenue west of I-25. State Chair David Aitken will be speaking.

In addition to electing officers, the group will be making plans for a booth at the Adams County Fair.

——— Aspen ———
The group is still looking for help with their booth at the Carbondale Fair, July 28-30. Call Tom Peckham at (970) 925-6027 to help—he guarantees you’ll have a good time.

——— Boulder County ———
Encouraging feedback from the booth at the Boulder Creek Festival included a higher percentage scoring libertarian on the Nolan quiz and many inquiries about the LP and about gun rights (in Boulder!).

June’s outreach meeting featured long-time LP activist Ron Bain reading his original libertarian allegory. The VOCAL (Victims of Child Abuse Laws) presentation was moved to July.

Our good friend (despite being a Democrat!) Paul Danish may be appointed to fill the county commission vacancy.

——— Denver County ———
Denver’s June meeting, held on the patio of Muddy’s on a beautiful evening, featured Rocky Mountain News Associate Editor Clifford May. Rather than lecture to the audience of about 25, he engaged them in a lively discussion that ran the gamut from how editorial decisions are made to how our society’s understanding of rights has deteriorated. Both May and the audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening. Among those in attendance was KHNC-1360 talk show host Tim Kern.

The group voted to return to meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, so July’s meeting will be on the 11th, not the 10th.

The People’s Fair booth was a big outreach success, thanks to lots of help from Jeffco and Aurora Libertarians. About 70 people who scored libertarian on the Nolan chart signed up for “free trial subscriptions” to the Colorado Liberty. At least 40 took one of the new postcard voter registration forms, and seven filled one out and registered Libertarian on the spot!

Chair David Segal invites everyone to his house, 2943 Vine St., for a “ Bastille Day +1” party at 2 p.m. on July 15. It’s potluck. For more information, call him at (303) 293-4059.

——— Jefferson County ———
After surveying Jeffco Libertarians, the group has made some changes. The newsletter will remain monthly, but the Jefferson Forum speaker series is going to a quarterly schedule. It will be supplemented with discussion circles on various topics.

The group will offer speakers to other Jeffco organizations on a variety of freedom topics. They also plan to run candidates for several offices this November, including school board.

——— Park County ———
Marla Huizinga reports about a dozen people participated in her last discussion meeting. She is looking for a more suitable meeting place and some help! Please call her at (303) 838-4152 if you can assist her in any way.

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The Lost Platform Planks Have Been Found!

by Chris Bogart

At the May 1995 state convention, Todd Wasserman, Ron Bain, and I were asked by the convention to serve on a committee to investigate the lost planks of the state platform. The state platform is officially defined as the national party's platform plus two planks specific to Colorado issues: water rights and the Safety Clause. But the two planks couldn't be found.

After the convention, Ron Bain found the planks in his files dated from 1987. However, we're still not sure if these are the latest versions—they may have been modified after 1987 and before being lost. It would seem prudent to consider them part of the platform for the remainder of the year and make a special point of reconsidering them at the 1996 convention.

The language that we have is as follows:

WATER
We favor the recognition of private rights to ownership of water. Any residual claims of the State to water or its use should be returned to private ownership.

As an interim measure, we advocate water user fees, rather than taxation, to finance the administration of water rights and water courts.

Public utility monopolies in the area of water storage, distribution and use must also be abolished and water as a resource returned to its proper place as a privately owned commodity in a free market. Accordingly, we call for the termination of the monopoly held by the Denver Water Board and similar local government agencies elsewhere in Colorado.

Since government uses tax money to finance water projects, we urge termination of such subsidized engineering jobs in Colorado as federal funded water projects and mine drainage abatement.

In addition, we oppose the exercise of federal reserve rights and interstate compacts to the detriment of any Colorado resident's water rights. To the extent that downstream water users claim the right to Colorado water, disputes should be settled through stipulation, arbitration, or litigation.

SAFETY CLAUSE
We adamantly oppose the routine attachment of a "Safety Clause" to every bill approved by the legislature.

Use of the "Safety Clause" limits or circumvents the ability of the courts or the electorate to review or reject improper or unconstitutional bills.

Retired ATF Agent Critical of Waco

by Gary Sandritter

Richard Mathis, a retired ATF agent, was the speaker at the Jefferson Forum on April 19. He was an agent for twenty-four years, and at retirement was the Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) of the Denver office. During those twenty-four years, he never took part in a tobacco operation and was involved with only one alcohol operation.

All the rest concerned firearms violations. One of the most common firearms violations is the crime of carrying a concealed weapon while selling controlled substances.

Mathis' subject was the ATF at Waco, and he was very critical of the way the operation was handled. He said he could have served that warrant with no loss of life on either side. The ATF disregarded their own criteria for conditions under which the warrant would be served, leading directly to the deaths in the original shoot-out.

At that point, the FBI took over the operation and all the horror that followed was the responsibility of the FBI. Same story at Ruby Ridge. After the initial confrontation, the FBI took over the operation and was responsible for the results.

Mathis has spent his entire professional life in law enforcement and clearly sees himself as one of the good guys who protect us from the bad guys. He is personable, well-spoken, good looking, knowledgeable, and quite unhappy with the Clinton administration.

Mathis stated several times that ATF agents do not infringe on people's civil rights, they simply enforce laws passed by the Congress. I got the feeling he did not understand why citizens fear that ATF agents will violate their rights.

Mathis told us the way to repair the nation is to elect additional conservative Republicans.

You're invited to the LPC's Independence Day Picnic!

2 p.m. Sunday, July 2
Eben G. Fine Park, Boulder
Between 2nd & 4th, Arapahoe & Canyon
We'll provide the grills, plates, forks, napkins, etc.
Bring food, drink, sports equipment, family and friends!
More info: Chris, (303) 449-6327, or Todd, 369-6369
Paradigm Shift!

Are we seeing a historic shift in American politics towards Libertarian ideas?

On December 29, 1994, President Bill Clinton said a remarkable thing. "There is a role for government in a modern society," he told the Washington Post in an Oval Office interview.

So what? Bill Clinton's a liberal. Of course he thinks there is a role for government.

But how long has it been since any president, liberal or conservative, felt the need to publicly champion the very existence of government? Not a favorite public government department or a specific policy, or the tax increase of the day — but defend, at the most basic level imaginable, the merits of government existing at all?

Something is happening in American politics.

It's what political scientists call a "paradigm shift" — when fundamental assumptions and beliefs undergo a profound change.

In this case, it's about the nature and role of government. A 50-year-long consensus that government can solve all our problems has been worn away by the ceaseless drip-drip-drip of higher taxes, failed programs, corrupt politicians, and arrogant bureaucrats.

The evidence of this shift is everywhere. In 1972, when the Libertarian Party first argued that numerous federal agencies should be abolished, taxes slashed, and the size of government dramatically curbed, political "experts" chortled.

Now, in 1995, American political dialogue is becoming an eerie echo of what Libertarians have been saying for years.

"Even Clinton hears the tectonic plates of politics shifting."

The LP Platform states: "Pending abolition of the government Postal Service, we call for an end to the monopoly system and for allowing free competition in all aspects of postal service."

* April 1995: Direct magazine reports that for the first time in 12 years, calls to privatize the Post Office have reached a "serious rumble." Congressman John R. Karish (R-Ohio) tells industry groups "point blank that we are going to privatize the Postal service."

The LP Platform states: "We oppose all government subsidies to business."

* April 1995: Democrats voice support for ending "corporate welfare" — and Republicans, surprisingly, agree. "Liberal House Democrats announced ... they want to eliminate federal subsidies to major firms to sell their products abroad," reports the Washington Times. And Republican Senator Phil Gramm calls for an end to "nearly $10 billion in SBA loan guarantees."

And the best goes on. Even the poster-boy for big-government is forced to admit that a problem exists. Mario Cuomo is quoted in the Washington Post, January 25, 1995: "We all know the federal government is a patient who is seriously overweight."

And the Washington Post itself — the house organ for bloated government — is having second thoughts. Columnist Jonathan Yardley wrote on January 2, 1995: "Liberalism isn't libertarian anymore. It's statism. The problem isn't merely that it's statism — but that it's statism that doesn't work."

Even Clinton hears the tectonic plates of politics shifting. On January 16, 1995, Clinton said: "We know government cannot really solve problems for people..."

In the same breath he immediately contradicted himself, and said, "...but I think we know that government cannot walk away, either." But the point is made; Bill Clinton has caught the "government doesn't work" bug.

Need more evidence? Check out the February 10, 1995 issue of Entertainment Weekly magazine. In a round-up of what's hot and what's not in post-Republican landslide America, they rate humorist P.J. O'Rourke "in" and humorist Dave Barry "out."

Note the significance? They're both libertarians. One libertarian is out; one libertarian is in. Paradigm shift.

Project Healthy Choice urges: "The FDA should be replaced with voluntary certification by a private-sector organization."

* April 1995: Congressman Ron Wyden (D-OR) urges the FDA to "accredit independent laboratories to do some of the testing that ensures therapies are safe and effective" — in effect, privatizing some of the FDA's functions.
Gun Training & Purchase Deals for Libertarians

Len Jackson, an NRA-certified instructor, is providing handgun classes at special rates for Libertarians. She offers individual instruction for beginners or those who want to brush up on skills, and has women-only classes for those who are more comfortable being taught by and in the company of other women. Mixed classes are, of course, also available. See the April/May Colorado Liberty, page 9, for more information.

Len is also organizing monthly target shooting get-togethers for Libertarians. Regular time hasn’t been set yet, but will probably be on the first weekend of the month. Call her at (303) 665-3413.

To help equip you, Bob Glass, proprietor of Paladin Arms in Boulder, offers Libertarians a 10% discount on firearms and accessories. The discount is available on everything but discontinued merchandise and irreplaceable (due to legal restrictions) items. Paladin Arms is at 5735 Arapahoe Rd., (303) 442-7872.

Editor Has Advice for LP

In the February 1995 issue of Modern Gun magazine, executive editor Jim Schults, in his editorial column, wrote the following advice to the Libertarian Party. It was in response to letters he received after a previous column urging readers not to “waste their vote” in national elections on third parties.

“The Libertarians need to go after grassroots offices to prove their worth and then set up a chain of promotion for national office. Until Libertarians prove themselves by winning mayoral, city council, state representative and senatorial offices, they will never be taken seriously for national office. In this country, whether it’s business, education, or life in general, you have to begin at the beginning, and it’s never too late. So quit your bitching; let’s see what you can offer at local office first.”

— from the Libertarian Volunteer, March/April, 1995.

If you want an excellent primer on how to get involved locally, read Robert Heinlein’s Take Back Your Government!

Plan Now to Celebrate Jury Rights Day

September 5th is Jury Rights Day, and celebrates the 325th anniversary of the acquittal of William Penn for preaching to his congregation in violation of England’s Converticle Acts.

The Fully Informed Jury Association is working to inform jurors of their right to judge the law as well as the facts, and has 17 other reforms under consideration as well.

For more information about Jury Rights Day, contact Brian Holthouse at 303-756-9319 or call FIJA at 1-800-TEL-JURY.

Help Rep. Penn Pfiisser “Sunset” a Bureaucracy!


If you have knowledge or training in any of the above areas, please contact David Aitken at (303) 831-4334.

Rep. Pfiisser also needs people to read public policy documents and books and prepare a shorter than Readers Digest summary. If interested, please call David Aitken.

Miscellaneous Political Stuff

Norman Olsen is organizing a Harry Browne for President group in Colorado. Contact him at (303) 452-2575.

There is one announced candidate for the LP vice-presidential slot. Contact Jo Jorgensen for VP at 1270 Woodruff Rd. #101, Greenville, SC 29607; phone (803) 242-0753.

The Christian Libertarian Fellowship is being started by Mike Hurley of Missouri. He can be reached at 3810 Bell Street, Kansas City, MO 64111-3916, phone (816) 561-1514, or online at MikeHurley@aol.com.

Kudos to...

Everyone who helped with the People’s Fair booth, including activists from Denver, Jeffco, and Aurora. Special thanks to Larry Hoffenberg, who provided the canopy and tables, setup and teardown, and many hours at the booth between the two.

Chris Bogart, for all his work on the Boulder Creek Festival booth, and everyone who helped with that effort.

Kevin Wilkerson, Boulder Chair, for his guest editorial and photo in the June 4 Daily Camera. He wrote about the Oklahoma bombing and the depth of discontent all around us. He’s received lots of good feedback, including comments from Paul Danish and Vern Bickel.

Michelle Bethke, for creating some great cartoons for Colorado Liberty. The first (signed “Mickey”) appears on page 3.

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LP Nat'l Newsline  
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$1.95/minute  
(454-2378)

Electoral results, Congress Watch, LP news

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207 Bonnie Meadow, Pueblo CO 81001

more random notes

State Board Schedules September Activists’ Seminar

The LP Board of Directors is holding an Activists’ Seminar on Saturday, September 9th, in Glenwood Springs at the Hot Springs Lodge. If you’re a local affiliate leader or activist or want to be one, this is your chance to meet other activists and find out what works.

The seminar will begin with a board meeting, followed by a variety of discussions on topics of interest to activists. Schedule details will be available soon.

Rooms at the Hot Springs Lodge are $75 per night, 2-night minimum, 1-4 persons per room, and must be reserved prior to August 25th. For reservations, please call 1-800-537-7946, ask for Kristin Harmon, and tell her you’re with the LP, group 114. Other lodging may be available. We’re checking.
Calendar of Events

July

5 LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 7 p.m.
5 & 19 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center.
   Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
6 Jefferson County LP business meeting, Jerry Hatch's,
   7030 Saulsbury, 7 p.m.
10 Adams County organizational meeting, Coco's at Northglenn
   Mall, 104th & I-25, 7:30 p.m. Earl Allen, (303) 258-4978.
10 & 24 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m.
   Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
11 Denver LP, Muddy's, 22nd and Champa, 7 p.m. Danger on the Right:
   a critical look at the latest Linda Thompson video. (303) 296-4059.
11 Summit County LP, Call John Sabal at (970) 282-6369 for time
   and location.
11 & 25 Routt County LP, Off the Beaten Path Bookstore & Coffeehouse,
   Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jakelka, (970) 879-4127.
12 Northeast Colorado LP, Branding Iron Cafe at the Super 8 Motel,
   I-76 at Exit 125 (Sterling), 7 p.m. Bette Rose at (970) 228-4456
   or Trent at (970) 522-0328.
15 "Basille Day + 1" party at David Segal's, 2943 Vine St., Denver,
   2 p.m. Polluck, bring dish. Call (303) 296-4059 for more info.
16 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, elections at 5 p.m.,
   outreach at 7 p.m. Speaker from VOCAL. (303) 443-1870.
17 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Social, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's,
   1317 Lakewood Dr. (970) 484-8184.
27 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m.
   Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.
28-30 Aspen Liberty Coalition booth at Carbondale Fair. Call Tom
   Peckham, (970) 925-6027, to help and have fun at the fair.

August

1 Ft. Collins 1st Tue. Breakfast Club, Tony's, 224 South College,
   7 a.m. Speaker, Pat Hartman, (970) 224-3116.
2 LPC Board of Directors meeting, LPC office, 7 p.m.
2 & 16 CSU Campus Libertarians, CSU Student Center.
   Bruce Lockhart, (970) 223-7504.
3 Jefferson County LP business meeting. Call Dick Reseigh at
   (303) 232-3660 for time and location.
8 Denver LP, Muddy's, 22nd and Champa, 7 p.m.
   Speaker or video. (303) 296-4059.
8 Summit County LP, Call John Sabal at (970) 262-6369 for time
   and location.
8 & 22 Routt County LP, Off the Beaten Path Bookstore & Coffeehouse,
   Steamboat Springs, 7:30 p.m. Robert Jakelka, (970) 879-4127.
9 Northeast Colorado LP, Branding Iron Cafe at the Super 8 Motel,
   I-76 at Exit 125 (Sterling), 7 p.m. Bette Rose at (970) 228-4456
   or Trent at (970) 522-0328.
14 Adams County Libertarians, 7:30 p.m. Call Earl Allen, (303) 258-4978
   for location and details.
14 & 28 Aurora LP, Shoney's, 13700 E. Mississippi, 7 p.m.
   Doug Newman, (303) 363-4172.
20 Boulder LP, Old Train Depot, 30th & Pearl, business meeting at
   5 p.m., outreach meeting at 7 p.m. (303) 443-1870.
21 Ft. Collins 3rd Mon. Social, 7 p.m., Mary Margaret Glennie's,
   1317 Lakewood Dr. (970) 484-8184.
24 Aspen Liberty Coalition, Pitkin County Library, 7 p.m.
   Tom Peckham, (970) 925-6027.

Please mail any additions or corrections to Calendar of Events, c/o the LPC office. Changes must be received by the 15th for the following month's issue. For instance, the deadline for the August issue, which will list August and September events, is July 15.

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