The Libertarian presidential ticket received 25,600 votes on November 4, finishing fourth behind the three candidates who were allowed to participate in the national debates, and well ahead of all the other candidates.

While the vote total was less than hoped for by party leaders, it nonetheless represented a substantial improvement over prior elections. In 1972, John Hospers, the party's first presidential candidate, received slightly over 1,000 votes, about 0.1%, and in 1976, Roger MacBride garnered 5,330 votes, about 0.5%. This year's total is over four times that of 1976, and 23 times the total in 1972.

Vote totals ranged from a low of 0.7% in Huerfano County (Archuleta County had not reported Clark's total at this writing), to a high of 6.6% in San Juan County in Southwest Colorado. In thirteen counties, more than 3% of the voters chose Clark, including Pitkin (5.3%), Park (4.5%), Gilpin and Clear Creek (4%), Summit (3.8%), Eagle (3.2%), and Boulder (3%).

Generally, the party's best showing was in mountain counties just west of the Denver metropolitan area, with a substantial drop-off in the eastern plains and the south.

Congressional candidates received a total of 22,200 votes, slightly lower than Clark's total, probably due to predictions of tight races in two of the districts. This year's congressional campaigns were the Colorado party's first attempt at the congressional level since 1972, and represented the first full slate of alternative congressional candidates to be offered.

Cynthia Molson-Smith received 5,526 votes, or 2.1%, in the sprawling Fourth District, previously held by Republican Jim Johnson. Molson-Smith's totals went as high as 7.3% in Clear Creek County. The seat was won by former Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Hank Brown. The other candidate was well-known Democratic State Legislator Polly Baca-Barragan.

In Jefferson and Boulder County's Second District, Paul Grant finished third with 4,632 votes, 1.7%, in a four-way race that included well-known Boulder physician and Citizen Party candidate Dr. Robert McFarland. Always a cliff-hanger, this race was again predicted to be very close, and Grant's totals were no doubt reduced by poll predictions and by McFarland's candidacy. Three-term liberal Democrat Tim Wirth was re-elected.

In the first attempt by the Colorado party to run in Southern Colorado, Bailey Libertarian Jim Glennie received 2,613 votes, or about 1.4% in a three-way race. Another sprawling district, the Third District race was predicted to be close, and featured a re-match of 1978's race. Incumbent liberal Democrat Ray Kogovsek was returned for a second term. Glennie received 6% of the vote in Park County.

In State Representative races, Ruth Bennett received 3.4% in Capitol Hill's District Eleven, Popular Denver Democrat Jack McCrosey was re-elected in the 57th District. Aspen Libertarian Stormy Mon received 5.5%, including almost 10% in Lt. Gov. Nancy Dick's home of Pitkin County.
The nationwide vote total for Libertarian presidential candidate Ed Clark and his running mate David Koch appears to be close to 950,000. This represents about 1.1% of the 85 million votes cast in the presidential election; eleven votes out of every thousand.

The LP ticket’s greatest strength was in the Rocky Mountain and Western states (see map). Highest showing was 12% in Alaska; about double Roger MacBride’s percentage four years ago. Only five states in the “Lower 48” pulled better than 2% for Clark. These were Wyoming and Montana, with about 2.7% each, and Arizona, Oregon and Colorado, each with about 2.2%.

Highest numerical vote for Clark, as expected, was in California, where he received close to 150,000 votes. Other large totals came in New York, Illinois and Ohio, each with about 50,000 votes.

Clark’s overall showing was a disappointment to campaign strategists, who had talked confidently of “several million” votes up until late September. Those in charge of the Clark effort place the blame for the shortfall on independent candidate John Anderson. Campaign critics say the problem was due to more to a misconceived campaign strategy and poor management. Heated discussion is expected at the upcoming Libertarian National Committee meeting in New Orleans, December 7-8.

The disappointment at Clark’s showing in Alaska, Dick Randolph won re-election to the state legislature; a second Libertarian, Ken Fanning, will be joining him when the session opens. Alaskans also elected Libertarian Stan Thompson mayor of Kenai Borough.

In Bakersfield, California, Libertarian Mary K. Shell was elected mayor in a nominally non-partisan race. (We say “nominally” because while candidates were not designated by party on the ballot, Shell campaigned openly as a Libertarian.)

In Oregon, Tonic Nathan received almost 4% in her U.S. Senate race. This was the best showing by a Libertarian in a Senate race to date. Other LP Senate candidates who did well were Bud Shasteen in Hawaii (3.6%) and David Berglund in California (2.5%). In two Senate races, Libertarian candidates “made the difference” between the two major contenders. Arizona’s Fred Ewser received 1.4% in a race where Barry Goldwater edged out a strong Democratic challenger by less than one percent. Likewise, in Idaho, Larry Fullmer’s 1.9% exceeded the spread between defeated liberal Democrat Frank Church and his conservative Republican replacement, Steve Symms.

Libertarian Congressional candidates pulled totals of 7% to 8% in some three-way races; State Legislature candidates did better yet. The cumulative vote total for all Libertarian candidates in 1980 is projected at close to three million; this compares with a cumulative total of 1.3 million in 1978.

GOP Takes Beating

How can a party handily defeat its opponents and still be a minority in the halls of Congress? That’s a question that Colorado Republicans surely are asking themselves, and the answer is both easily resolved and unsolved.

In Colorado’s 1980 congressional elections, three incumbent Democrats were returned to Washington, maintaining their 3-2 margin in Congress. Closer examination of the vote, however, shows a result that must be frustrating to the state GOP: out of 1.15 million votes cast in congressional races, Republicans netted 54%, Democrats 44%, and Libertarians 2%.

With redistricting on the agenda of the Republican-dominated state legislature, it is fairly certain that the GOP will make sure they never see such results again. Depending on whether or not Colorado gains an additional seat, look for the Republicans to set up 3-4 sure Republican districts, one Democratic district (probably Denver), and one toss-up.

And look for the Democrats to scream bloody murder.

Board to Select Committee Chairs

The Libertarian Board of Directors will select the chairs for the 1981 Platform Committee and Constitution and By-laws Committee at their December meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m., rather than the normally scheduled fourth Wednesday of the month, due to the holidays.

Persons interested in the positions should apply prior to the meeting or attend.

At its November meeting, the Board adopted a new procedure for determining the committees’ membership. Due to substantial growth this past year, and to recent county organizational work (see p. 3), each county affiliated by February 25, 1981, will be entitled to one member on each committee. Counties with more than 50 members will be entitled to one additional member for each additional 50 state party members. The same person may not be a member of both committees, and the committee chairs will not be counted as part of any county’s representation.

The work of both committees will commence in late February, to be completed by no later than March 31, 1981. The changes proposed by both committees will be provided to the Party membership prior to the May 23rd State Convention in Ft. Collins.
From the Chair
by John Mason

Not as great as we had hoped, but the results are cause for celebration nonetheless. In addition to maintaining an impressive growth curve, we’ve now got a core of people experienced in fairly intensive Congressional campaigns. We’ve learned a lot, and there are a lot of new people involved now.

And interest remains high. Our election night party was attended by over 200 Libertarians, and a discussion group that next night was attended by about forty people, even though many were exhausted from the work of the previous week.

There are many people to thank for our successful efforts this year. Over 150 people were involved in door-billing, literature distribution, and working in the office. We distributed over 150,000 pieces of literature. Our candidates received more press coverage than ever before, and every one of them filled their schedules with as many speaking engagements as possible.

There is no doubt that our candidates conducted impressive campaigns, considering their resources, and all who saw any of their speaking or TV appearances would agree that the Libertarian candidates were impressive.

Special thanks to a few. Thanks to Jim Phelps, who was first, and who fought the good fight. And to Paul Grant, who campaigned constantly and up town Jefferson and Boulder counties, despite having to run his own business. And to Jim Glennie, who agreed to run so we would have a full slate, and then proceeded to campaign all over southern Colorado while managing to maintain his B-5 grind in downtown Denver. And to Rodney Howe, whose generous contributions provided the full page ads which undoubtedly pushed our results up. And to Ruth Bennett, Sarah Fulton, Jim Brooks, Jon Baraga, and Gale Norton, all of whom contributed an incredible amount of time.

Much more is coming up: county organizing, the state and national conventions, and preparations for 1982. To keep the momentum, we need to keep the office open and staffed. Please consider making your most generous pledge today.

And thanks again — to everyone. It might have been hard, but it was fun.

And Now, Reagan...
by David F. Nolan

Ten months ago, eyeing the contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, I made the following observations about Ronald Reagan:

“Reagan has a reputation far better than he deserves. He gives great lip-service to free-market ideals, but his record belies his rhetoric. When pressed, he admits that there is practically no area of government that he would actually dismantle, and his performance as governor of California shows that he has no pinch penny; spending by the state government there actually rose faster, on an annual percentage basis, during Reagan’s two terms than it did under either his Democratic predecessor or his Democratic successor. Marketeers do a fair job of pressing for it. (Once Reagan is inaugurated, it would probably be worth taking the time to send him two letters: one pushing for deregulation; the other asking him to cancel the draft registration program.)

In terms of general economic policy, we’ll probably get a tax ‘cut’ — to wit, a smaller tax increase — as promised. But since there will be no overall reduction of spending, inflation is likely to surge in the short term. Over the long haul, it may abate, but don’t assume that the era of sound money is here!

There will likely be minor spending cuts, as some of the more blatant fraud and waste is eliminated. But any savings will be

Colorado Libertarian Calendar

Dec. 10 CLP Cocktail Party, 2nd Wednesday every month, 7:30 p.m., at the Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver, 573-5229. Cash Bar, relaxed evening with fellow Libertarians. Bring friends and catch up on the news.

Dec. 17 Discussion Group, 1st and 3rd Wednesday every month, 7:30 p.m., at the Party office. Topic: religion and Libertarianism.

Dec. 18 CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver. Chairs for Platform and Constitution Committees to be chosen.

Jan. 7 Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. Call office for topic.


Jan. 21 Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. Call office for topic.


Jan. 28 CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Party office.

Feb. 4

& 18 Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. Call office for topics.

Feb. 11 CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m. Cash Bar.

Feb. 25 CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Deadline for county affiliation for committee representation.

May 23

& 24 State Convention, Fort Collins.

We still need help! Lots of exciting projects. Call the office at 573-5229.

Please make an office pledge today. Call 573-5229.

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For a rate card and publication schedule write or call the Colorado Libertarian Party, 1041 Cherokee Street, Denver 80204. Phone 573-5229.
"Reagan is a foreign-policy hawk, well to the right of Carter, an advocate of massive increases in defense spending—and no great defender of civil liberties. America under a Reagan administration would be no worse a place to live than under Jimmy Peanut, but it would be no better either. Inflation would probably be cut, and fuel more plentiful, but we would have to suffer through a new wave of nationalistic fervor and social piety as a payment."

I see no reason to make any major changes in that assessment now. Despite numerous peoples' hopes—or fears—I will still maintain that the change from Carter to Reagan will produce little substantive difference in the affairs of this country. The verses change, but the song remains the same.

The most promising aspect to a Reagan administration is that it may make some moves to deregulate American industry, especially those sectors involved in energy development. I wouldn't hold my breath waiting, but it's a realistic hope... especially if Libertarians and free-

The likelihood of our becoming involved in another overseas war is probably no greater than it would have been had Carter been re-elected. In fact, if history is a reliable guide, it's less likely! Historically speaking, it has not been the 'hawks' who have gotten us into wars, but rather the 'doves' — Wilson, Roosevelt and Johnson.

Far more probable is the prospect of a Garrison State. Egged on by puritan zealots of the Moral Majority stripe, a Reagan administration may well move to reduce civil liberties and reestablish the Cold War mentality of the 1950's. Censorship and harassment of dissenters and critics—Libertarians among them—is a more likely threat than nuclear annihilation, in my estimate.

Looking ahead four years, it seems clear that Reagan's performance will be judged by the same standard he asked this year's voters to apply to Carter: 'Are you better off or worse off than you were?' And the answer to that question may well determine the future of libertarianism as a political movement (although not as a philosophy).

If most people perceive things to be substantially better in 1984 than they were in 1980, it will be difficult—perhaps even impossible—for us to make much headway in political spheres. If, on the other hand, things continue to get worse, the Orwellian year of 1984 may prove to be the 'do or die' year for the LP. And our chances of success will depend on our ability to build a genuine grassroots movement between now and then.
LIBERTY AMENDMENT COMMITTEE RE-ACTIVATING IN COLORADO

You say you want to chop the Federal government down to about half its present size and abolish the income tax? Then have we got a deal for you!

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It came alive again in 1978, following the Great California Tax Revolt, and succeeded in getting an eighth legislature (Arizona's) to endorse the proposal.

Now, a drive is underway to get more states to hop on the bandwagon. And the long-dormant Liberty Amendment Committee has come alive again in Colorado.

Co-Chairs of the Liberty Amendment effort in Colorado are Polly Ruhenberg of Colorado Springs (phone 634-6542) and Jim Phelps of Evergreen (674-3709). Polly and Jim plan to hold an organizing meeting in early 1981, to generate grassroots support for passage of the Liberty Amendment Resolution by the new Colorado legislature.

COUNTY LP'S ORGANIZING

Listed below are the CLP county chairs and contacts. Now's your chance to get involved without having to come to Denver all the time. If you don't see your county represented here contact our office about becoming the CLP contact in your area.

ADAMS
Mike Kruse
10631 Livingston Drive
Northglenn, CO 80234
(H) 452-5107  (W) 469-5101

ARAPAHOE
Attilio Calanzano
(H) 779-4739

BOULDER
Nita Hodgson
1320 Norwood
Boulder, CO 80302
444-0172

DENVER
Robin White
3301 Blake St.
Denver, CO 80211

LAKE
Gale Arch
Box 918
Leadville, CO 80461
(H) 486-3980

LA PLATA
Daniel Hazen
Box A40-FLC
Durango, CO 81301
(H) 259-1808

LARIMER
Dan Boxxia
1980 W. Prospect
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(H) 493-4873

LINCOLN
Pete Canfield
Box 395
Limon, CO 80828
(H) 763-2472

To get involved in the Liberty Amendment Committee, contact Polly or Jim.

TEXT OF LIBERTY AMENDMENT

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"Sec. 2. The constitution or laws of any State, or the laws of the United States, shall not be subject to the terms of any foreign or domestic agreement which would abrogate this amendment.

"Sec. 3. The activities of the United States Government which violate the intent and purposes of this amendment shall, within a period of three years from the date of the ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and the properties and facilities affected shall be sold.

"Sec. 4. Three years after the ratification of this amendment the sixteenth article of amendments to the Constitution of the United States shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not levy taxes on personal incomes, estates, and/or gifts.”

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951 Desperado Road
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P.O. Box 1751
Pueblo, CO 81002
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Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(W) 879-4326

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Don't Affiliate

by James W. Phelps

When you registered to vote did you declare an affiliation with one of the major parties?

Even if you registered many years ago as a Republican or Democrat that registration may come back to haunt you.

Legislatures in several states, made up of Democrats and Republicans, have been passing laws restricting potential political opponents.

The laws I'm referring to say that you can't run for political office as an "independent" if you have been registered as a member of any political party at any time during the previous year.

Elsewhere in their laws they "define" political party to mean only the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Other parties, such as the Libertarian Party, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Workers Party, are defined as "political organizations."

This is like saying black is white. It doesn't make black white. It just makes it difficult to understand what is going on.

It's sort of copying the communists who claim they are "liberating" people when they are actually enslaving them.

When a member of a minor party tries to register as a member of his party he is told, in most states, that he can't do it. He must choose Republican, Democrat or unaffiliated (or independent).

He may say to himself, "I'm affiliated with the Libertarian Party, so I can't really say I'm unaffiliated or independent," and, since the Republican (or Democratic) philosophy is closest to mine, I'll register as a Republican (or Democrat)."

Then, months or years later, the Republicans and Democrats pass the law referred to above.

In the meantime the voter has become more and more disenfranchised with both of the major parties and decides to run for political office as a Libertarian (or Communist or Socialist or whatever).

But, because of a law that didn't exist when he registered, he finds he can't run for office until a full year after changing his registration.

When he registered he wasn't permitted to register his true affiliation and was forced to choose one of three wrong categories. And, because of a new law passed after he registered, he now finds he chose the wrong category.

It is not in the interests of a free people to let those in power exert any control over their peaceful political opposition, but the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the law and another of our rights has been taken from us.

Four Groups

by Stormy Mon

Once upon a time, four groups of 100 each lived on the plains. It was spring, and they looked toward the mountains. They had heard about cool air and water, and plentiful game there.

The first group was headed by a dictator king. As he was leading his people into the mountains for the first time, a messenger warned them of wild beasts. At the same time, a fierce thunderstorm appeared over the mountains. Sixty of the people wanted to turn back, and 40 wanted to continue. The king consulted with his court intellectuals and mystics. Then he proclaimed, "By royal decree and divine right, anyone and thrived on the cool air, water and plentiful wild game. One was mauled by a bear and survived. Another was killed by lightning while flying a kite on a mountain. The libertarian newspapers printed warnings about bears and standing on mountaintops during thunderstorms. The libertarians lived happily ever after.

Which group is the best way to organize a society? Which group would you choose to be in?

Four Groups — Postscript

When the first three groups turned back,
Four Groups — Postscript

When the first three groups turned back, the 40 who were not in agreement with the decision were upset. Some were resentful and felt alienated. The third group that uses voting for decision making is a good example for all three groups.

When the 100 arrived back at their original home, some progressives weren’t satisfied with the existing entrenched special interests. They saw an opportunity for change and proposed a new location on the other side of a river. Once again there was fierce lobbying, and rumors of vote fraud and scandal. The vote was 60 in favor of staying at the original location. But not the same coalition of 60 that had won the mountain-plains vote. Now a majority of the 100 was upset and alienated. The people who had been on the losing side of both votes were very upset. They began to see a pattern developing and there was talk of riots and rebellion. Crime, divorce and drug use and abuse increased. Independent studies showed this breakdown was most common in the alienated group.

After a period of time, and several votes, everyone was upset about something. Respect for all the laws was practically non-existent. Some felt more centralized control was the answer. A strong, charismatic leader of this group emerged. Others heard the libertarians were doing well in the mountains. They planned to form a libertarian plains society. The central power group said this would be disastrous and passed even more laws to control the unrest. They talked of war with the central committee group over access to the source of the sacred oils, and a mysterious, sneak attack on a rowboat.

The outcome was uncertain.

Library, Anyone?

Have you looked at the price of books lately? It’s gone up more than almost anything else. Generally, there’s no solution; either pay the price, or go to the public library, yet, many libraries don’t have the kind of books that interest Libertarians. You can rarely find the type of books on politics, economics, tax revolt, and science fiction, “future history”, and fiction Libertarians prefer.

Further, for those among us who need, for one reason or another, to do research, think how helpful it would be to be able to go to one place for Libertarian information instead of spending a lot of time seeking books with a Libertarian theme.

There is a solution — a CLP library. But, like anything else in the free market, it has to be (at least) self-sufficient. The most viable alternative is a subscription library, in which those who wish to use the service pay for it.

Here’s an idea of how it could work: if you want to borrow books from the library, you pay a subscription fee. A reasonable amount, $5.00 for an individual and $10.00 for a family, would entitle you to use the library for a year (or, you might donate a book instead of paying the fee.) Then, every time you borrow a book, you pay a nominal fee, 50c for the first week, and 25c for each week thereafter. With both of these fees, there would be money to buy new books and replace supplies.

There is a space at the Headquarters building that would be suitable, but it needs paint, furniture (chairs, a table, good lighting), bookshelves, and supplies.

The first thing such a project needs is enthusiasm — people to contribute books, time, and money; and people who are interested in giving their support. We need to know what titles you have to donate, and which ones you’d like to see. If you want to see this idea become reality, let us know at CLP Headquarters as soon as possible — January would be a good time to start operating!