Nairne ponders Senate bid

By Ron Bain
CLP Communications Chair

Mark S. Nairne, elected in May to the post of CLP Campaigns Chair, is pondering a Libertarian bid in 1990 for the U.S. Senate post being abandoned by Republican Sen. Bill Armstrong.

He'll run, Nairne says, if enough early support is shown for his candidacy in the form of volunteers, fundraising and the creation of a campaign staff. Call him at (303) 934-8986 if you want to help.

Nairne's primary issue, indicated by his position as the executive director of the No More Drug War Foundation, will be calling for an end to America's multi-billion dollar Drug Prohibition.

"If people start thinking of it as Prohibition, then they'll think of the solution to the old Prohibition," said Nairne, who hopes to grab media attention by being willing to discuss his own casual use of illegal drugs.

"I'm willing to admit honestly to my past and, likely in the future, drug use and I'm willing to do time -- it's enough of a cause for me," Nairne declared.

"If I went to jail, I would be a political prisoner and there is a long and noble history of people doing that," he added.

Nairne's position on the drug issue illustrates his first goal in conducting the campaign, which will not be to win but to "provide a ballot alternative for people who are tired of the Big Brother authoritarianism of the Republicans and the Big Daddy paternalism of the Democrats."

Other campaign goals include attracting New Libertarians by emphasizing "baby boom" issues such as a non-interventionist foreign policy, individual choice in abortion questions and ending Selective Service registration.

"I want to end the myth that we're a right wing organization," Nairne said.

Toward that goal, the probable Senate candidate hopes to "spark a debate in the state and national Libertarian Parties" about environmental issues.

"There are plenty of Libertarian Greens -- I believe there's a possibility of a coalition in this country," he remarked.

Nairne would emphasize private and free market solutions to environmental problems, but would also be willing to accept government intervention in the "defense" of private and public property from polluters.

This "rock -n- roll" campaign strategy should attract Young Libertarians who inhabit Colorado campuses, Nairne said. He plans benefit concerts with Zappa-style voter registration tables set up near the doors.

Nairne also proposes, populist style, to limit congressional salaries to a figure double the median American income.
Communicating

By Ron Bain,
CLP Communications Chairman

The other day, as I was sitting reading a libertarian science fiction novel by L. Neil Smith while listening to freedom-oriented music by libertarian rocker Captain Flashback just after watching the movie version of Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" on cable TV, I had a brainstorm:

The Libertarian Party and the libertarian philosophy has taken a beating at the hands of the mainstream news media during the past two decades, but lest we forget, libertarian philosophy had a heyday in the popular media three decades ago, in the Sixties, when rock-n-roll bands were espousing an end to overseas warmongering and the draft. Newsmen paid attention when blacks and other ethnic minorities began demanding their inalienable rights (protection from murder, for example). Social agitation made progress toward the repeal of Drug Prohibition, most of which has since been turned back.

The point is that the inroads into the mainstream media in the Sixties was achieved by first making inroads into the popular media. If current trends continue, it might well be that in the Nineties the libertarian message will be much easier to spread through the popular media than through the news media.

I truly believe that nothing would galvanize the Libertarian Party's presidential aspirations in 1992 more than the release of a movie version of Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" (filmed in Colorado, naturally) about six months prior to the election.

Inspired by L. Neil Smith's success in almost singlehandedly carving out a whole new libertarian sub-genre of science fiction, I myself have embarked upon the writing of a libertarian science fiction novel which I hope to see published in the early Nineties. This is the path by which we will make the most progress over the next five years, I believe, in winning the hearts and minds of the American people: through fiction, through music, through movies. Coverage from the news media will follow without fail after enough best-selling libertarian novels, enough libertarian Top 40 hits, enough libertarian movies have permeated the popular media.

If you have a talent, do your part and get to work!

Yours in Liberty,

Ron Bain

Letters to the CLiPboard:

Unlimited democracy isn't freedom

Dear Editor:

You know, of course, democracy means government by the people. In an unlimited form, it is not much different than mob rule. The American version of limited democracy provides the non-prevailing parties with basic rights, without regard to popular uproar. The minority, as a political force, is not to be destroyed.

Examples of unlimited democracy exist right now, all over the world. Less sensitive to human rights, they are marked by certain traits: they give to the government virtually all power, without restriction. Frequently, in these systems, the side that prevails routinely destroys the weaker side, often literally, justifying its actions as "the will of the people." Knowing no limits to its power, claiming any aspect of life as its proper area of authority, this form of government, when frustrated in some endeavor, inevitably blames the people for its own lack of success and responds with predictable harshness against the very people it claims to represent. Survivors of many of these unlimited democracies have arrived on our shores in regular waves throughout our history.

Occasionally the laws of a society affect only a part of that society, as with gun laws. Those persons who do not own guns and have no desire to own guns in the future are completely unaffected by laws that concern guns. Statements from this unaffected group, expressing support for gun laws, have no real value. For example, if the people assemble and (discuss) surrendering their excess wealth for the benefit of the needy, statements of support for this idea coming from the poor are far less valuable than expressions of support for this idea coming from the wealthy.

When a proposed law depends on the cooperation of a small segment of society, it is important that society pay attention to what that segment feels. To encourage the support of the non-prevailing group, we guarantee to them their basic rights will never be put on the block of the political process or placed at risk. We consider these rights as being forever sacred and basic to freedom, pledging to the people among us shall not have to fear the loss of certain rights, no matter how poorly they may do in the political process. Among the rights which we have guaranteed are: life, liberty, arms, religion, the press, speech, assembly and a few others which we regard as constituting our basic freedoms. It is with this firm assurance that all groups can safely participate in our political process, which then allows us to expect all to support the view of the majority. In this way we have risen above the organized mob to the American ideal.

Darel Billings

Mail letters to the CLiPboard to:

Colo. Libertarian Party    Editor Ron Bain
720 E. 18th Ave., #309    1281 Juniper
Denver CO. 80203    Delta, CO. 81416
Jeffrey Stephen, an economist with Oxfam America at Brown University, has also written several articles debunking gun control myths.

Advising rates for the CLIPboard:
$4 per column inch or $2 per half-column inch. This box, for example, would cost $5. Pre-printed inserts cost 10 cents each, or seven cents each if stuffing labor is provided. A quar- ter-page is $20; a half-page is $40 and a full page is $75. Mail copy and pre-payment to CLIP HQ, CLIPboard Ads, 720 E. 18th Ave., #309, Denver, 80203.

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All events will take place in the Library Learning Center on the Downtown Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. Last minute from Manhattan.

Conference speakers:  
- Doug Bandow (Syndicated columnist)  
- Joe Bob Briggs (Movie Channel humorist, drive-in critic)  
- Pater Brimelow (Forbes senior editor)  
- Dennis Cauchon (USA Today Inerational reporter)  
- Robert Corn-Revere (First Amendment attorney)  
- Donna Demar (Liberty Denied: The Case of Censorship in America)  
- John Fund (Wall Street Journal editorialist)  
- John Kamp (FCC public affairs director)  
- Jonathan Kwitny (PES "Kwitny Report" show)  
- Charles lavenderocky (Nat Mencken-winning editorial editor)  
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TABOR petitioning resumes

Colorado Springs tax activist Douglas Bruce, with the optimistic statement "We are back!" has begun petitioning for access to the 1990 state ballot for the second version of his Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR II.

Noting that the original TABOR/Amendment Six proposal garnered 42 percent of the statewide vote, Bruce stated that TABOR II covers "all the sincere and phony criticism of Amendment Six," dropping the rollback of the 1987 income tax hike because it was "too long ago" as well as the two-thirds majority vote needed to go into public debt, which was "distorted into a claimed two-thirds vote for everything."

Petitioners are needed now to secure the needed signatures to gain ballot access, so that the time nearer the election can be spent raising money and campaigning for the amendment's passage. Bruce expects the 1990 battle over taxes in Colorado to once more be waged on television and in the newspapers, and says "we must raise $250,000-plus to air our side." In 1988, TABOR only raised $30,000 in cash donations.

Send donations, pledges to petition or otherwise volunteer to: TABOR Committee, Box 26018, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80936. TABOR Treasurer Clyde Harkins can be reached by telephone at (303) 420-5866. We've got the fat-cat bureaucrats worried -- let's keep the pressure on!