REPORT OF THE 1982 COLORADO PLATFORM COMMITTEE

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INTRODUCTION

We affirm the right of all individuals to live their own lives in whatever manner they choose subject to the equal right of others. No person or group should initiate force against peaceful individuals or take their justly earned property. No government, no majority or its representative; no legislation or government bureaucrat should abridge these rights of the individual.

All goods and services can and should be earned and traded voluntarily in a truly free market - including those services now monopolized and regulated by government. Advocates of any program or product should persuade users, not elected officials with the power to impose their will on those who do not agree with them.

Continuing reduction of taxes and regulations, toward their eventual elimination, should accompany the return of government services to the private competitive marketplace. This will result in the expansion of freedom, creativity, flexibility and productivity. Individual effort will be rewarded, and natural resources treasured, in relation to scarcity and value to others.

TAXES

All taxation is a violation of the fundamental right of individuals to keep the fruits of their labor. We, therefore, oppose all forcible collection of money or goods by government and call for the disbanding of all enforcement agencies associated with tax collection.

As an interim measure, we support mandatory tax reductions and oppose any new tax or tax increase.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING no changes from last year (See Page 9)

PUBLIC SERVICES

We oppose governmental ownership and operation of any so-called public services such as water and sewer, transportation, fire protection, trash collection and health care.

We favor the immediate public auction of all such services now owned or operated by government to the private sector including voluntary charitable organizations. We also advocate immediate elimination of any government restriction on competition for such services.

The transfer of such services to the private sector shall not confer upon the recipients any present governmental authority to violate individual rights.
COST SHARING

We oppose the control of state and local activities by the federal government through cost sharing. We propose that the state and local governments and any other agencies refuse to participate and refuse any and all distributions of federal funds.

We oppose any increase in state and local taxes to replace federal funds.

GOVERNMENT LICENSING AND REGULATION

We advocate repeal of all laws creating and protecting government-sanctioned monopolies, and demand an end to all licensing requirements and regulatory activities because they interfere with the individual's right to enter into voluntary contractual arrangements.

In Colorado, this includes abolishing the Public Utilities Commission, eliminating the monopoly status of Mountain Bell, the Public Service Company, and other public utilities. We call for unregulated access to local broadcasting by cable, satellite and pay television companies. Specifically we advocate that free market principles be applied to cable television and oppose the granting of franchises by governmental entities.

We also advocate elimination of the 55 mph speed limit, all vehicular inspection requirements and licensing, and licensing of drivers.

We believe that health, safety and consumer protection can be effectively assured through a strict application of liability laws.

JUSTICE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Justice for the individual will be achieved within systems for enforcing rights and obligations. Court systems are meant to provide non-violent means of settling disputes among individuals, as well as requiring restitution from those who violate rights. Thus, we support the free development of legal systems that further the rights of the individual while providing forums where disputes can be settled.

Currently, criminal law is based on punishment with little concern for the victim. The present system of "criminal justice" does not provide justice because crime is currently defined as unlawful acts against the state, rather than unjustified acts against the lives, property and rights of specific individuals. Restitution to victims must be emphasized at the expense of convicted wrongdoers. We do not approve of the existing state Victim Compensation Fund which socializes restitution rather than providing for specific restitution from specific wrongdoers to specific victims.
We call for the repeal of all victimless "crime" laws, since they are no more than one group's imposition of its moral standards upon the voluntary actions of individuals. We favor unconditional pardon of persons convicted of or detained for victimless "crimes". In particular, we condemn continuing Colorado legislative attempts to control or eliminate obscenity, pornography, massage parlors, escort services and use of any chemical substances and drug paraphernalia.

We advocate an immediate end to the doctrine of "Sovereign Immunity" which implies that the State can do no wrong and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of our common law, may not be sued without its permission or be held accountable for its actions in civil suit.

INDIVIDUALS IN GOVERNMENT

Present laws limit both the civil and criminal liability of government officials and employees for violations of individual rights. We insist that government officials and employees be held strictly and personally responsible for their actions.

POLICE POWERS

We favor elimination of the discretion currently accorded to police and other government officials to take threatening or violent action against others on whim and with impunity. In particular, the virtually complete immunity from criminal prosecution for acts such as theft, breaking and entering, false arrest, strip searches and the like which police officers enjoy must be eliminated. We specifically repudiate the doctrine that anyone's suspicions or beliefs, whether or not held in good faith, constitute an entitlement to take violent action against others, unless supported by demonstrable facts.

We particularly condemn the use by various Colorado public agencies of entrapment techniques, such as the use of decoy prostitutes and the placement of undercover agents in high schools. These practices violate basic individual rights, and often result in a high degree of danger to the general population.

EQUAL RIGHTS

Government has no right to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, age, national origin, disabilities, sexual or political preference. Nonetheless, we oppose legislative or judicial attempts to regulate discrimination in private relations and transactions.

No human need, no matter how legitimate, justifies the initiation of force. Individual and cooperative efforts, not government coercion, are the only just solutions to the problem of "equal rights".

RIGHT TO PRIVACY No Change From Last Year. (See Page 9)
ELECTION LAWS

We favor greatly increased access to the ballot for initiated issues, referenda, political parties and independent candidates. We oppose all attempts to limit access to the general election ballot for independent candidates or candidates of small political parties. We deny the right of the state government to define what constitutes a political party or to dictate how political parties must operate. We further oppose the current merging of the business of the Democratic and Republican parties into the area of governmental action, and call for an end of the "open primary" system, under which parties recognized by the State are required to accept any and all voters into their ranks in return for the State's running of their candidate selection process.

We oppose any attempt to restrict the voluntary financing of campaigns or the range of choices available to voters in a general election.

So that voters may express dissatisfaction with the political system, "None of the Above" should appear as a choice in every election. If "None of the Above" wins a plurality, the office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded.

ENVIRONMENT

The present system of regulation fails to prevent the deterioration of our environment, wastes tax dollars, and arbitrarily violates individual rights. Regulations are misleading, since they permit the government to establish arbitrary "tolerable" levels of pollution.

We advocate the development of an objective system to establish individual property rights to air, water and other natural resources. Present legal principles which provide for the preservation of individual rights through the institution of civil actions should be expanded so that the principles of trespass, nuisance and negligence fully protect individual rights regarding damage done to air or water, or by noise, chemical or radiation pollution.

This would create incentives for development of less polluting, and therefore, less costly, technologies. Holding polluters fully responsible for their actions would also promote much more careful handling of problems important to Colorado such as oil shale development, surface mining and toxic waste disposal.

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 to finance the administration of water rights and water courts, rather than taxation.

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.

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 federally funded water projects, mine drainage abatement and the Foothills Water Treatment Facility.

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

ENERGY

We advocate a free market in energy production and consumption. (We demand that all government interference with the energy market be eliminated, as such interference.)

Government interference with the energy market is the primary cause of the so-called energy crisis. Only through a free market in energy can we encourage a rational use of resources, conservation through the pricing system and development of alternative energy sources.

Therefore, we favor decontrol of prices, and deregulation of allocation, distribution and production. We advocate the abolition of all government attempts to develop or restrict (by eminent domain, subsidies, or otherwise) energy production or consumption.

Specifically, we call for an immediate end to government financed oil shale and synfuels projects, and the Solar Energy Research Institute. We also demand the removal of all roadblocks to energy development, such as the mineral severence taxes, and we demand the transfer of all government-held mineral rights and lands to private hands.
PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND USE

Land use planning is properly the responsibility and right of land owners. We oppose government ownership of land, and laws that restrict the right of private property owners to use, dispose of and covenant with regard to their property as they see fit. We advocate private operation of parks and preservation of wilderness through privately owned conservancies.

With respect to private property, we urge an end to government control of land use through such devices as zoning laws, building codes, eminent domain, regional planning, and urban "renewal". We specifically oppose the growth control policies that have been instituted and are proposed by governmental bodies.

TRANSPORTATION

Government attempts to provide transportation services interfere with voluntary exchange and promote costly and inefficient transportation systems. A free market in transportation will provide a diverse selection of alternatives, and, in all probability, increased employment opportunities.

To achieve this, we favor the repeal of laws prohibiting the operation of private transportation systems. Specifically, we call for the elimination of the licensing of taxicabs, transportation companies and chauffeurs, and the monopoly granted to the Regional Transportation District.

We favor a freeze on further expenditure of taxpayers' money for all transport facilities and the conversion to private ownership of existing government facilities.

EDUCATION

We advocate separation of education and the State. Government schools interfere with the free choice of individuals and severely limit educational alternatives and progress. The proper solution to our educational ills is a free market in education so that individuals can choose the manner (and the language) in which they will be educated.

We advocate public auction of all educational facilities now owned and operated by government to the private sector including voluntary charitable organizations. As interim measures, we support tax credits for tuition and other educational expenses, with no restrictions placed on the manner of their use, and repeal of taxes levied against private schools.
We call for elimination within the state education system of forced busing, forcible administration of drugs, corporal punishment and compulsory education laws. Requirements of a state license or other certification to offer educational services must also be ended.

ABORTION
NO CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR
(See Page 9)

GUN CONTROL
NO CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

UNIONS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We support the individual's unrestricted right to free contract and voluntary association including participation or non-participation in a labor union - and oppose the use of government as a tool or weapon in labor unions.

We insist that a difference exists between private employers and government entities as employers. Accordingly, we deny the right of any government agency to accept any labor union as an exclusive representative for its employees.

FREE MARKET ZONES

As a step toward universal free markets, we favor the establishment of free market zones, i.e., areas in which all federal, state and local regulations, taxes, services and subsidies are permanently eliminated. We support the right of individuals in any geographic area to establish free market zones.

We are, however, opposed to "Enterprise Zones" by which governments manipulate investment with artificial and temporary incentives to achieve political ends.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS

People should be allowed to immigrate to the United States, and move to any state, for political, economic, or any other reason. Accordingly, we condemn any and all round-ups of individuals not possessing required government documents as restrictions on the fundamental freedom to work and move about unmolested.

State support of national policies restricting immigration, such as attempts to keep Cubans and Asians out of Colorado, should be withdrawn.

However, we oppose tax-financed welfare and transfer payments to aliens just as we oppose them in general.
CONSCRIPTION

Because we oppose all conscription as slavery, we call for all state and local government entities and officials in Colorado to decline all cooperation with federal conscription including, but not limited to, the supplying of lists of names of potential conscription to the federal government.

Further, all laws which require individuals to serve as jurors in court processes should be repealed.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Violations of individual human rights by the government routinely occur as a result of the operation of military installations in Colorado. Accordingly, we oppose any current plan to deploy MX missiles in Colorado, and support the closure of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and Rocky Flats nuclear facility. We also oppose the condemnation of private land for the expansion of military installations such as Fort Logan.

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.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

We hold that children are human beings with legal, political and property rights. Accordingly, all references in this platform to the rights of human beings include children.
THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

We support the full and complete protection of each individual's right to privacy from invasion either by government or individuals. The government should not use electronic or any other means of surveillance in order to monitor the actions of any individual without the consent of that individual.

ABORTION

We do not believe the State has any right to interfere with a woman's personal choice regarding termination or continuance of a pregnancy. However, we are opposed to taxpayer financing either for abortion or for support of the child.

GUN CONTROL

We uphold the individual's right to self-defense and, therefore, the right to keep and bear arms. Thus, we oppose all laws at any level of government restricting the ownership, possession, manufacture, or transfer of arms or ammunition. We also oppose all laws requiring their registration.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

We advocate massive and immediate reductions in spending at all levels of government, enforced by strict budget limitations. An economy unfettered and undrained by government will provide ample opportunity for all.

Subsidies to special interest forcibly take resources from those who have earned them to reward those favored by government. Therefore, we favor ending all types of government subsidies.

Public funds should not be used to support or oppose any particular party, candidate, or issue.
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life—accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic systems, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.