Colorado Springs Seeks Registration of Gold Sales

by Patrick L. Lilly

Ever-vigilant against the possibility of individuals enjoying too much privacy in their own self-interest, the city government in Colorado Springs is currently trying to crack down on the anonymous buying and selling of precious metals.

Basing their appeal on tales of easily-fenced stolen silverware (tales that are, no doubt, mostly true), the Springs Police Department is pressing the City Council for a new regulatory ordinance requiring coin shops, pawn shops and the like to keep records of who they buy and to whom they sell anything containing gold or silver. Proposed versions of the law which have surfaced during debate would forbid the reselling of such items for some fixed period, from three days to as much as a month.

Anyone trying to accumulate gold and/or silver as protection against collapse of the dollar economy should be concerned. A law like this on the books would make it impossible to acquire precious metals legally and anonymously. It would mean that the police would be in possession of a comprehensive list of those individuals in a given city who had bought and not resold silver coins and the like. When and if the government decides to ban personal ownership of precious metals again (a real possibility) to prevent people from opting out of the paper economy, these lists would make systematic confiscation of metals pitifully easy, just as gun registration lists have long been feared by gun owners as an expedient for the systematic confiscation of guns.

The original proposal produced a whirlwind of very vocal protest from coin shops, which currently suffer only minimal regulation. Unfortunately, all the protests so far have followed the dismally familiar pattern of complaining about the details, instead of the principles.

To all appearances, the only real objection the shops have is to the length of time they would be required to hold merchandise before resale; they are worried about profit potential in a market where prices change daily. Not one shop owner, though, has had the guts to come out and say that he doesn't want the police prowling through his list of customers at all, even if it doesn't take very long. And not one has attacked the loss of privacy for gold and silver hoarders.

As this is written, no final action has been taken, as the shop owners and police representatives are negotiating in a generally congenial way to find some details they can both agree on. But if it passes in Colorado Springs, the idea seems all too likely to spread. If it does, when the collapse comes, those who have built up a little nest egg of silver coins without taking the extra trouble to do so on the black market are likely to see it vanish, along with their guns, in a midnight raid.

NEWS NOTES

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY SHORT OF HEROES

One of the top attractions at a recent Socialist Worker's Party rally was Frank Martinez, whose only claim to fame is allegedly mailing a letter bomb to a Denver policewoman.

They say you can judge a man, or a party, by the company it keeps. (RMN 2/23/81)

RENT CONTROL FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE?

A group in Boulder wants to impose rent control, claiming that without it "Boulder is in danger of becoming an elite city." In a refreshingly novel approach to this ghastly threat, the group apparently is far-sighted enough to see that rent control removes incentives for landlords to maintain their apartments. This will create much-needed slums in a town currently dominated by Perrier water and fern bars. In the words of the group, rent control will "preserve Boulder as a town where people of all economic levels can live."

Creative urban planning at its best. (RMN 2/26/81)

REDECORATING THE WHITE HOUSE — LIBERTARIAN STYLE

The new First Lady has disdainfully refused to spend OUR money to redecorate HER new house. Turning down $450,000 forcefully taken from the people through taxation, she asked for $200,000 from private contributors. No doubt to the surprise of big government advocates everywhere, she got it — and more. To

Mohn Sent to Prison

After damming the Fraser.

by Dwight Filley and Paul Grant

One of the top attractions at a recent Socialist Worker's Party rally was Frank Martinez, whose only claim to fame is allegedly mailing a letter bomb to a Denver policewoman.

They say you can judge a man, or a party, by the company it keeps. (RMN 2/23/81)

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), a notorious trumper of citizen's rights, is under the Administration's budget ax. The Bureau might even be dismantled, according to sources within the Office of Management and Budget.

Let's hope. (RMN 2/14/81)

INTEREST-ING TAX PROPOSAL

The Colorado Department of Revenue may get a taste of its own tax medicine if a bill introduced by Rep. Frank DeFilippo, R-Golden, clears the state legislature. DeFilippo is proposing that the infamous department be required to make income tax refunds within 30 days of filing or pay interest on the refund. "If a taxpayer is late getting the money he owes to the government, he is severely penalized," DeFilippo was quoted as saying, "Why shouldn't the state government be penalized for not paying its bills on time?"

(Denver Monthly, March 81)

CREeping Libertarianism

In D.C.?

Drew Lewis, Reagan's new Transportation Secretary, came right out and said it: "Had we (the Federal government) not had (automobile fuel efficiency) regulations, the auto industry probably would have done it (achieved 30-50 MPG fleet averages) long before this, if the government had stayed out of it." He went on to express satisfaction with current levels of government spending on auto safety and environmental protection.

Let's hope. (RMN 2/14/81)
Mohn Sent to Prison After Overpaying Taxes

"I don't want to be a tax collector," libertarian Stormy Mohn tells the U.S. Supreme Court in his current appeal (USA vs Mohn). The case questions the constitutionality of the income tax withholding system that forces employers to be tax collectors.

In the first test case (Abney vs. Campbell, 1953) the courts said, "Withholding provisions have now become a familiar part of our system of taxation and cannot now be successfully challenged."

Mohn feels that, "The courts are saying, in effect, that if the government can get away with something that is illegal and do it often enough and long enough, then it's legal — no matter what the constitution states. The fact is, withholding taxes ARE unconstitutional."

Mohn was the officer of a corporation that was $4,500 delinquent in withholding responsibilities. The IRS prosecuted him two months after all the tax obligations in question had been paid, including interest and three kinds of penalties. Mohn is currently serving a one-year federal prison term for his principled stand against government abuse of the Bill of Rights.

Following his sentencing, the IRS returned $73,000 to Mohn. There had been an overpayment. Commented Mohn, "I have to be one of the few people in history who was put in prison after overpaying taxes."

Mohn also points out that the withholding tax was an emergency World War II law which was slated to be repealed at the end of the war. "The IRS should not have been allowed to use, let alone abuse, this law after 1945," Mohn stated.

From 1950 until her death, the fighting business lady from Connecticut, Vivian Kellar, challenged this very law. The government, knowing it could not withstand a direct legal challenge, avoided the case. As a government official once commented, "The IRS could not figure out how to constitutionally defend the withholding tax."

Mohn feels that his appeal to the Supreme Court is a renewed and necessary challenge to the legality of the withholding tax: a challenge which millions of tax-burdened, inflation-ridden Americans can now identify with and champion. It is Mohn's hope that the Supreme Court will recognize, not only his appeal, but that of millions of American citizens who are forced into involuntary servitude to collect taxes for the government.

Mohn stated, "Prohibition went the way of legal extortion because the people rejected it. The people are rejecting making and into a time where country organizations will be the key element in our operational framework.

We already have nine or ten fledgling county organizations, and this number is likely to double within a year. Up until now, the precise relationship between the CLP and county groups has not been clearly defined; this omission must now be rectified.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee — made up of representatives from the current county groups and chaired by Paul Hodgson — is wrestling with the many implications of this change, and will no doubt have some well-thought-out recommendations. But the final decision will rest with the convention delegates. So you might want to ponder a bit on how you feel about such things as proxy voting, the duties and powers of the CLP's board of directors, the manner in which we choose

Continued on page 4

The REAGAN SHOOTING

As long-time readers are well aware, this paper has often pointedly criticized Ronald Reagan for some of his actions and proposals.

No doubt, we will continue to be equally critical in the future; as champions of individual liberty, we can do no less.

Nonetheless, we cannot and will not condone the recent brutal attempt on his life. It was a barbaric and unjustifiable act, antithetical to every libertarian principle; until the use of force is eliminated from human affairs, none of us can truly be free.

So, while we deplore many of President Reagan's policies, we wish him a speedy recovery, and pray that there are no further attempts on his life.

David F. Nolan
Managing Editor

Important Convention Information Inside!

Colorado Libertarian Party
PO Box 1557
Denver, CO 80201

Address correction requested. Return postage guaranteed.
Colorado Libertarian Party
1981 Convention
Memorial Day Weekend
Fort Collins, Colorado

All events will take place at the Fort Collins Ramada Inn, located immediately off Interstate 25 at the Colorado Highway 14 Interchange.
Convention registration forms are available from the Colorado Libertarian Party office, 1041 Cherokee Street, Denver 80204, Phone 573-5229.

Friday, May 22
8:00 p.m.
Pre-Registration
Cocktail Party (Cash Bar)
Movie: "Dark Star"

Saturday, May 23
7:00-10:00
Registration
Continental Breakfast
10:00-11:00
Adoption of Convention Rules
11:00-12:00
Constitution & By-Laws
12:00-12:30
Speaker: Lou Witzeman
12:30-2:00
Luncheon Buffet
2:00-5:00
Constitution & By-Laws
2:00-3:00
Seminar: Lou Witzeman
3:30-5:00
Seminar: Gary Carlson
5:00-5:30
Open
5:30-7:00
Dinner Buffet
7:00-8:00
Keynote Speaker: Vernon Brown
8:00-9:30
Debate: David F. Nolan vs. L. Neil Smith
"Steering a Course Between Opportunism and Irrelevance"
9:30
Movie: "Anarchists in Old Lace"

Sunday, May 24
7:00-8:00
Continental Breakfast
8:00-10:00
Constitution & By-Laws
8:00-10:00
Candidates’ Panel
10:00-10:30
Speaker: Lynn Crussel
10:30-12:30
Platform Debate
10:30-12:30
Seminar: Carl Stone
12:30-2:00
Luncheon Buffet
2:00-5:00
Platform Debate
2:00-3:00
Seminar: Karl Hess, Jr.
5:00-5:30
Open
5:30-7:00
Dinner Buffet
7:00-8:00
Speaker: L. Neil Smith
8:00-9:00
Speaker: Karl Hess
9:00
Costume Party with Jug Band Entertainment

Colorado Libertarian Party Constitution
As revised in Convention, 31 May 1980

ARTICLE I NAME
The name of the association shall be the Colorado Libertarian Party, hereinafter referred to as "the Party".

ARTICLE II PURPOSES
The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles, such as those in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, by:
(a) nominating and running candidates for office in the state of Colorado,
(b) promoting, chartering and co-ordinating Party affiliates throughout the state of Colorado, and
(c) entering into political information and educational activities.

ARTICLE III PRINCIPLES
The Party shall take no positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS
Section 1. There shall be five Party Officers, as follows: a State Chair, a Campaigns Director, a Membership Director, a Communications and Education Director, and a Finance Director. The powers and duties of these five Officers shall be as specified in the Party By-Laws.

Section 2. The five Officers shall be elected by a majority of the Party members present and registered at the Annual Convention each year. Each Officer shall be elected individually, on a separate ballot in the order designated in Section 1, and shall serve a term commencing immediately upon adjournment of the Annual Convention ending at the close of the next Convention. No person not a member of the Party shall be eligible for election. Any Officer may be suspended by a majority vote of the other Directors. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote, appoint new Officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such Officers to serve until the next Annual Convention.

Section 5. The rules for each Convention shall be adopted by the Convention as its first order of business. The Board of Directors, or a committee appointed thereby, shall submit proposed rules for initial consideration. A simple majority of those members present shall be sufficient for adoption.

ARTICLE VII NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES
Section 1. Nomination of candidates for offices requiring the vote of all the members of the state and for U.S. Representatives shall be made by a majority vote of the attending Party members at the Annual Convention, or by a committee designated thereby. In the event the Convention has not selected a committee, the Board of Directors shall act as the committee.

Section 2. Nomination of all other candidates shall be made by the Party affiliate representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate may provide.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATIVES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS
In years when there is to be a national Libertarian party convention, Party members in attendance at the Convention shall select delegates and alternates to the national convention. This selection shall follow the procedures set forth in the Party By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX RECOGNITION OF PARTY AFFILIATES
Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Party may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent such geographical area as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

Section 2. Every organization so chartered shall submit the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall adopt and submit the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party as the basis on which the Party may act in matters concerning its national interests.
Mohn Sent to Prison

Continued from page 1

marijuana and co-habitation laws and staging the largest tax protest in this nation's history. The times are similar to 200 years ago when free people rejected the dictates of an arrogant king. We reject the arbitrary and illegal actions of our U.S. government because we, as they, do not like or believe in oppressive tax laws.

The IRS legal precedents are weak and invalid. Using the existing court interpretations, politicians, and bureaucrats can enslave all of us to work for any federal agency they choose. Considering the present income tax, social security, currency inflation, state, local and miscellaneous taxes, the government forces so-called free citizens to give up over 50% of their income. It is subtle — but it is slavery; a slavery caused mainly by the withholding tax system. For this republic to survive, the withholding tax law must be declared unconstitutional, be repealed and this system of involuntary servitude destroyed.

Stormy is 35, single, and was a 1980 libertarian candidate for state representative. He received a higher percentage of votes than any other Colorado third party candidate.

Colorado Libertarian Calendar

1st and 3rd Wednesday every month: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver, 573-5229.
4th Wednesday every month: CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Party office, 1041 Cherokee, Denver.
1st Wednesday every month: Boulder County Libertarian Association meeting, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Federal Savings Building, 1913 Broadway, Boulder.

Apr. 8: CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 15: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Education".
Apr. 22: CLP Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 6: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Unions and Boycotts".
May 13: CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.
May 20: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m., "Hazardous Wastes".
May 23-25: State Convention, Fort Collins.
June 3: Discussion group, 7:30 p.m.
June 10: CLP Cocktail Party, 7:30 p.m.

Note: A new Board of Directors will be meeting in June. Call the headquarters, 573-5229, for time and location.

BY-LAWS

As revised in Convention, 31 May 1980

ARTICLE I PARTY AFFILIATES

Organizations applying for charter as an affiliate shall make such application on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board of Directors, which petition shall be signed by not less than five (5) Party members.

ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be
Continued from page 2
delegated by the Board of Directors. The State Chair may appoint such Party functionaries as a recording and corresponding secretary, an office manager, and an events chair.

Section 2. The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and coordinate candidate and issue development. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for and co-ordinate all political campaigns of the Party. The Campaigns Director shall act as Chair in the temporary absence of the State Chair.

Section 3. The Membership Director shall be responsible for recruiting members, maintaining membership records and organizing Party affiliates and shall provide assistance in filling positions other than those of Officers.

Section 4. The Communications and Education Director shall be responsible for news media co-ordination, dissemination of information within and for the Party, developing membership education programs, producing Party position papers, and publications and operating a Speakers Bureau.

Section 5. The Finance Director shall be responsible for the budget and expenses associated with the operation of the Party, shall have the primary responsibility for fund raising and shall establish mechanisms and procedures for assisting other Directors in budget preparation. The Finance Director shall also be responsible for establishing and maintaining the Treasury and all Party monies collected and expended. The Finance Director shall act as or appoint a Party Treasurer who shall be responsible to the Finance Director. The Finance Director shall be accountable for the Treasurer's actions in an official Party capacity.

Section 6. Each Director will be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her area and will provide a written report to be passed on to the next Director. He or she will not incur expenses in any event beyond budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the State Chair, or by written request of one-third or more of the members of the Board. A written notice, unless waived by all members of the Board, of the time and place of each meeting shall be mailed to each member not less than seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. More than one-half of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1. The fiscal term of the Party shall end on the last day of March.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be established and maintained.

ARTICLE V PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Party.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The Party secretary shall announce to the Convention body the number of delegates to be selected, as allocated by the national party.

Section 2. Nominations for delegate positions shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves.

As interim measures, we support tax credits for private school tuition, with no restrictions placed on the manner of their use, and repeal of taxes levied against private schools. We support elimination within the State education system of forced busing, forcible administration of drugs, corporal punishment, and compulsory education laws.

ENERGY

A free market in energy will encourage a rational use of resources, conservation through the pricing system, and private development of alternative energy sources. Therefore, we favor the development of alternative energy sources and the competitive bidding for energy that will be based on energy's life-cycle costs.
Our government was instituted to protect these rights, not to violate or regulate them. The continuing growth of government, with increasing taxation, regulation, and interference in private affairs, is the greatest threat to liberty and peace in our time. In order to restore our lost liberties and the vitality of voluntary and unrestricted enterprise and cooperation we call for:

(a) drastic reductions in the size and power of government at all levels,
(b) massive deregulation of the economy, toward a true free market system,
(c) increasing reductions of taxation at all levels, toward an end to taxation, and
(d) increasing emphasis on individual and property rights.

Because some of our proposals involve an expansion of the private sector into functions now performed by the government, we recognize that some proposals cannot be implemented abruptly without causing unnecessary social and economic disruption. However, we believe the process of change should begin immediately. Toward that end, the Libertarian Party of Colorado hereby adopts the following positions on issues of concern to the people of Colorado:

TAXES
We believe that there should be no more government than that which people will finance voluntarily. All taxation is a flagrant 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.

As a necessary interim measure, we support proposals to impose strict limits on taxation. We further seek to enact mandatory tax reductions and to end requirements that employers and business operators act as tax collectors.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING
We advocate strict budget limitations and reductions for all levels of government.

Public funds should not be used to support or oppose any particular party, candidate, or political philosophy.

An economy unfettered and undrained by government will provide ample opportunity for all. Subsidies to special interests forcibly take resources from those who have earned them and transfer those favored by government. Therefore, we advocate ending all types of government subsidies.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & PUBLIC SERVICES
We believe that the marketplace provides the best measure of demand for services. Therefore, we oppose tax financing of so-called public services such as water and sewer services, transportation, fire protection, trash collection, and health care facilities. As an interim measure, a system of user fees should be established to more rationally relate the use of services to their costs.

We support the Colorado Sunset Law and urge that it be more effectively utilized. 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.

INDIVIDUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
Individuals in government should be held personally responsible for their activities that violate the rights of citizens.

ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL SYSTEM
So that citizens 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 will remain unfilled and unfunded.

We favor increased and easier access to the ballot for initiated referenda, political parties, and independent candidates.

EDUCATION
We advocate total 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.

ENERGY
A free market in energy will encourage a rational use of resources, conservation through the pricing system, and private development of alternative energy sources. Therefore, we favor deregulation of prices, development and production, and elimination of public utility monopolies, and termination of government regulation, taxation, and subsidy.

MASS TRANSIT
Governmental attempts to provide mass transit are costly and grossly inefficient. A free market in transportation will provide options allowing better, more responsive service at reasonable rates. Therefore, we favor unregulated competitive transportation alternatives. Specifically, we recommend transfer to the private sector of all equipment held by the Regional Transportation District.

ENVIRONMENT
The present system of regulation fails to prevent the deterioration of our environment, wastes tax dollars, and arbitrarily limits individual rights. We believe that air, water, wildlife, and other natural resources should be defined in the context of individual property rights. Polluters should be fully responsible for damage caused by their actions. This would create incentives for development of less-polluting, and therefore less costly, technologies.

PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND USE
Land use planning is properly the responsibility and right of the owners of the land. They alone are capable of exercising the adaptability and diversity required in a complex and changing society. We oppose government ownership of land, and laws which restrict the right of private property owners to use and dispose of their property as they see fit. We advocate private operation of parks and preservation of wilderness through privately owned conservancies.

EQUAL RIGHTS
We deny the right of government 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.

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
The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution should be upheld as written: "...the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
We call for the repeal of all victimless crime laws, because they are no more than one group's imposition of its moral standards upon the voluntary actions of other consenting adults. Furthermore, we believe that such a repeal would immediately alleviate the inhumane conditions found in jails and prisons, and would allow better protection of citizens and property from violent crimes.

The criminal justice system should be restructured to emphasize restitution by criminals to their victims.

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 relations.

FINAL COMMENTS
As individuals, and as members of the Libertarian Party, we do not necessarily advocate or condone many of the practices our policies would permit.

However, our silence about any particular law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, agency, or activity should never be construed to imply our approval.

For information on other issues of concern, direct your attention to the current platform of the National Libertarian Party.
Charting a Course
Continued from page 1

the board, and requirements for affiliation by county organizations.

There is room for considerable debate on all of these points; there is no one way doing things that is by definition “the right way.” The CLP is a voluntary association of individuals banded together for specified mutual endeavors; we make our own rules, and as long as those rules do not involve force or fraud, we can make them on whatever basis we choose.

The question of where, when, and if proxy votes should be allowed (for example) is not one of principle; it is a question of agreed-on frameworks for cooperation. Those who don’t like the rules of the association are free to withdraw from participation; this isn’t a government! Conversely, they are welcome to stay and fight like hell — if they’re willing to play by the rules of the game as long as they’re in it.

Questions of principle are intimately involved in the stands we take in our platform, of course… along with questions of marketing strategy and political ethics.

Our present platform, adopted last year, was drafted on the premise that the platform is an “outreach” document, aimed at communicating our stands on key issues of present concern, in as brief and easily understood a fashion as possible. Gale Norton, who chaired the state platform committee last year, is heading up the committee again this year; recommendations for radical change are not likely.

This is not to say that there aren’t CLP members who favor radical change. Our previous platform — scrapped by an almost unanimous vote of last year’s convention delegates — was very different from the present version. It was much longer, covered much more ground, and addressed many issues of only peripheral concern to most voters. And there are members of this party — hopefully, a small minority — who would like to go back to that type of platform.

My own belief is that this would be a tragic mistake… every bit as much of a mistake as the soft-edged, opportunistic approach to politics exemplified by Ed Crane and his ilk.

I believe that we must always be front in our stands on the issues of the day — taxation, the draft, civil liberties, foreign policy, and so forth. We must never shrink from taking the hard-core position and unabashedly explaining the principles underlying that position. Anything else is simply sleazy opportunism, and will eventually destroy the CLP as an effective instrument for social change.

However, I do not believe that we must go out of our way to derive every possible offbeat stand that can be derived from our basic principles and make it a part of our platform. Coming out for simian rights and three-year-old suffrage serves only to make us look foolish and irrelevant in the eyes of 99% of the population. And irrelevance will destroy us just as quickly and surely as opportunism.

To synopsize: We must be hard-core on the issues we choose to address, but we do not have to address every conceivable issue on the face of the earth… or in space.

That’s only my opinion, of course. You’ll have an opportunity to hear an opposing viewpoint when Neil Smith and I debate this issue at the state convention. Be there!

From the Chair
by John L. Mason

This will be my last “From the Chair” column. Before the next issue of this paper, Colorado Libertarians will have elected a new slate of officers, including a new State Chair. I am not running for reelection. Not because I won’t stay involved. And not because I’m running for done. And we couldn’t have done it without hundreds of Libertarians helping with their time and their dollars. But there is a tremendous potential provided by the progress made in the last two years, and it can best be realized by your involvement — in a leadership capacity.

The Tenth Anniversary Convention of the Libertarians
The Libertarian Party has come a long way since its beginnings ten years ago. And this summer, we're meeting in Colorado — birthplace of the party — for a grand celebration and a flying start into our second decade.

Highlights of this historic gathering will include panels, workshops, a reception in honor of our three past presidential candidates, a trip to an old gold mining town, a great debate on the future of the party, and a gala 10th Birthday Banquet that will be talked about for years to come.

For veterans and newcomers alike, LP/10 will be an exhilarating and memorable experience. Plan now to be there. Details to follow.

LP/10
Here To Stay

Libertarian Convention Committee
1041 Cherokee Street, Denver CO 80204
Phone (303) 573-5229