



Liberty News

July 2001

a publication of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County

Real Electric Deregulation Would Help Colorado

By Ron Bain

California is facing an uncertain summer due to electricity shortages, rolling blackouts and tripled residential energy bills. Could a similar fate await Colorado this summer or next?

"We have been setting records [for electricity usage] every year since 1992," stated Steve Rolstad, spokesman for Xcel/Public Service Company. Average household use of electricity is up in Colorado, from 538 kilowatts per month in 1990 to 602 kilowatts per month in 2000. But current capacity exceeds anticipated peak demand this summer by almost 800 megawatts, so Xcel/PSC officials are in an envious position compared to their California counterparts.

Colorado is also better positioned in terms of new construction of power plants than California. Unlike California, which halted expansion of generating capacity in the 1970s, Colorado has built and continues to build new natural gas-fired and coal-fired power plants; Xcel/PSC expects to bring 2,000 megawatts of capacity on line between now and 2004. Currently, there are 14 gas- and coal-fired power plants in Colorado, supplemented by 31 hydroelectric dams, as well as several city-owned and rural cooperative utilities besides Xcel/PSC.

Nonetheless, there are dark clouds on Colorado's energy horizon. In a May 24th article, the Denver Post reported that Xcel/PSC is worried enough to consider offering dollar incentives to cut usage for large industrial users during peak usage days. The company meets 60 percent of peak demand with its own power plants, Rolstad said, and is confident in long-term contracts with out-of-state suppliers for the other 40 percent.

The Post reported, though, that Xcel/PSC might have to buy from the energy spot market at premium prices for as many as eight days during the summer peak "when the utility expects it will need to buy additional power, such as when a generating unit is down for repairs."

The Energy Information Administration, in its Annual Energy Outlook 2000 report, also projected that hydroelectric generation would decline through 2020 "as regulatory actions limit capacity at existing sites." Hydroelectric generation is the cleanest, best way to generate electricity, and the associated dams bring recreational and flood control benefits to Colorado. There are 1,576 existing dams in Colorado that do not generate electricity.

Blackouts have already struck Colorado in 1996 and 1998. In July 1996, Colorado was among the dozen states served by the Western Area Power Administration that suffered daylong, intermittent blackouts - caused by a tree branch that fell on a crucial Oregon interstate transmission line. In July 1998, a combination of mechanical breakdowns and stray tree branches caused rolling blackouts in the Denver area. It's a bit frightening to think that almost half of America's electric grid can be brought down by something as simple as a tree branch.

The recent merger agreement between the Public Service Company of Colorado, Xcel Energy and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission included a rate freeze that will last until 2002. Prices have been

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Real Electric Deregulation Would Help Colorado

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inching upward recently because Xcel/PSC is allowed by the agreement to pass along 50% of its fuel cost increases to its customers. The question apparently is not whether a rate increase will be implemented in 2002, but when and how much?

California's problems, it has oft been explained, were not caused by deregulation, which never occurred in California. A combination of overregulation, price controls, lack of capacity and an unanticipated worldwide increase in fuel costs caused California's problems. Colorado can avoid most of these problems in the future...IF hydro relicensing is simplified and encouraged by the feds...IF the environmental movement does not grow so strong in this state as to halt construction of or shut down generating capacity...IF the state enacts true deregulation and allows the free market to determine the price of energy. Everyday, when you turn on the lights, toast some bread, microwave some popcorn, go to the doctor for an X-ray, or use any other of the miracles caused by the ready availability of electricity, you have one of Colorado's adopted sons, Nikola Tesla, to thank for the opportunity. Tesla was a brilliant theoretician who understood electricity better than any contemporary, Edison especially included. He would terrify and fascinate locals who would gather around his Colorado Springs workshop: "He generated lightning bolts that could be seen and heard from miles away," wrote biographer Theodore Benson.

Tesla invented, discovered or perfected alternating current (making long-distance electrical transmission possible), radio (yes, before Marconi), X-rays (yes,

before Roentgen), radio telescope (he detected the first natural radio signals from space), the fluorescent light (his "filamentless bulb"), the electric toaster, microwaves, the Tesla coil, of course, and broadcast electricity. That's right, he figured out how to transmit electricity through the air like radio or TV waves, and even built a demonstration tower on Long Island that was to blanket several states and part of the Atlantic Ocean with usable, wireless electricity. But his patron, George Westinghouse, couldn't figure out how to meter or make a profit off of broadcast electricity, and mothballed the project.

So, until the day comes when we can pull electricity out of the air with the equivalent of a radio antenna (imagine the electric cars we could build), let's preserve what we've got in Colorado by deregulating energy markets, granting tax incentives to solar, wind and geothermal research, expanding instead of shrinking hydroelectric capacity, and avoiding California-style disasters like artificial price controls.

Staff Member Ron Bain wrote this article for the Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Golden; <http://www.i2i.org>

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Quotation ...

America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She well knows that by enlisting under other banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standards of freedom.

-- John Quincy Adams (1821)

Erratum:

In the June "Liberty News," in the article about Bob Glass, the speaker who "followed with a litany of real-world examples that spotlighted the corruption of the two-party system" was not Howard Lambert, but was David Bryant.

The Grilling of Bob Glass

By Ralph Shnelvar

What: The grilling of Bob Glass
When: Sunday July 8, 2001 from 3 to 6 pm
Where: Boulder Public Library 1000 Canyon Blvd
Why: To see if Bob can stand the heat
Who: LP folks

Bob Glass, the head of the Tyranny Response Team, has announced his candidacy for governor of Colorado. This meeting will serve as a forum for members to see if Bob can stand the heat.

This forum will not be a debate between Bob Glass and James Vance (the other announced candidate) although Vance partisans are certainly invited to attend. We will be setting up a Vance/Glass debate for another time.

This is a closed-door session. The general public is not invited.

It will be held at the Boulder Public Library at 1000 Canyon Blvd in Boulder (one block west of the intersection of Canyon and Broadway).

We have rented the library's auditorium from 3PM to 6PM. The cost of the auditorium is \$150 for three hours. Contributions to offset this cost will be gratefully accepted. I already have \$100 in unsolicited commitments.

Tentative Agenda

1. Skeletons in the closet

It is my opinion that Mr. Glass's candidacy will draw more attention to the Colorado Libertarian Party than anything else in recent memory. We need to know what we are getting into.

2. Ammo in the closet

What expertise does or can Mr. Glass bring to bear should he miraculously win the governorship? Is Mr. Glass any less qualified to run Colorado than Ventura is to run Minnesota or Reagan to run California?

I have learned that he is an intelligent man. What I have not learn yet is whether he has a grasp of economics, politics, finance, law, etc. Further research shows that Mr. Glass can write beautifully. See, for instance, <http://www.freerepublic.com/forum/a39a9838a45ae.htm>

Whether we run James Vance or Bob Glass (or anyone else who steps forward), whoever runs as our

candidate better have good answers for the questions about competency that are sure to come up, and better be able to communicate well and effectively.

3. Political Positions

We know that Bob is a strong BOR supporter. What, though, are Bob's positions on

- k Abortion
- k Growth control

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Board Meeting Minutes

By Bruce Waters

Summary of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 in the private dining room of Chang's in Louisville by Chairman Lori Van Buren. Present were Lori, Tom Parker and Bruce Waters.

There were several corrections to the minutes. The corrected minutes were approved.

Chuck Wright was absent, but sent paper copies of his treasurer's report. We approved the report as presented.

Membership is now at an all time high. We have 63 total members, 56 voting and 7 contributing. We also have 46 trial members, mostly from the Creekfest.

John Larkin was not present, but we made an educated guess and decided to have the newsletter out by June 30th due to the election. Lori mentioned that she might be willing to run the newsletter next year.

Chairman report: Lori described her style as "benevolent neglect." Seems to work well. She went to the Bob Glass announcement; about 1/3 of the crowd were from Boulder County.

Old Business: Annual Meeting. July 12, 2001, 6:30 P.M. Tom will contact John Larkin to see if he's up to hosting. Lori requested ideas for a new meeting place in Boulder. I suggested North Boulder Cafe. Discussion, but no resolution. Motion, second, adjourned.

Grill Bob Glass

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- k Highway construction (HOT lanes, etc.)
- k TABOR
- k School financing
- k The citizen initiative process
- k (Please let me know of other issues you consider important)

These are the bread and butter issues that candidates will need to deal with. Can any candidate satisfy both Libertarian purists and the public on his or her political position?

4. What is the political objective?

We have several overlapping options:

- k We attempt to win
- k We attempt to get the Libertarian message out
- k We try to become political spoilers

If there are other objectives, please let me know.

Note that the campaign changes tone and message depending on the objective.

5. The political costs

- k How will a Glass candidacy affect the voter's perception of our other candidates?
- k How will a Glass campaign affect fund raising both for Glass and local candidates?
- k If the Republicans and/or Democrats runs a campaign based on nothing but a picture of Bob Glass's Paladin Arms storefront, how will that affect the voters?

6. Miscellany

- k Who will run as Lt. Governor? Will this person work to eliminate the position? In April of 2000, the Colorado state Senate voted (and passed) on a constitutional amendment that would give voters the choice of whether or not to eliminate the position. This amendment did not make it on to the November 2000 ballot.
- k Whether we run James Vance or Bob Glass, will that person be willing to be "handled" in order to present the best image for the objective that we are seeking?

Folks, I look forward to your input as to what should be on this grilling agenda.

Ralph Shnelvar

Who are Libertarians?

A few excerpts from the Libertarian FAQ at <http://www.self-gov.org/libfaq.html>

Are libertarians liberal or conservative?

You have a better choice than just left or right. The libertarian way gives you more choices, in politics, in business, your personal life, in every way. Libertarians advocate a high degree of both personal and economic liberty. Today's liberals like personal liberty but want government to control your economic affairs. Conservatives reverse that, advocating more economic freedom but wanting to clamp down on your private life.

Libertarian positions on the issues are not "left" or "right" or a combination of the two. Libertarians believe that, on every issue, you have the right to decide for yourself what's best for you and to act on that belief so long as you respect the right of other people to do the same and deal with them peacefully and honestly.

Today's liberals and conservatives have rejected America's heritage of liberty and personal responsibility. They want to put us all in their straitjacket. Americans built a great country without shackles. It's time to take them off again. Break free of the useless left right spectrum. Think freedom on all issues. Think libertarian.

How do libertarians approach the issues?

Libertarians use a caring, people centered approach to politics. Politicians too frequently forget that their laws and regulations affect real, live human beings. Libertarians never lose sight of that fact. We see each individual as unique, with great potential. We want a system which encourages all of us to discover the best within ourselves and make the most of it. A system which encourages the development of the most harmonious relationships among all people.

In dealing with political issues, libertarians focus on the people involved. Who is having a problem? What is it? What is the government doing already, if anything, and might that be the cause of the problem?

Most importantly, Libertarians ask: is anyone violating another's rights? Is someone committing murder, rape, robbery, theft, fraud, embezzlement, arson, trespass, etc.? If so, then it's proper to call on government to help the victim against the wrongdoer. But, if not, the government should not get involved.

In most instances, people are better off if allowed to work out their own problems through voluntary cooperation without introducing the coercive tool of government.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Every Monday, Noon:
LPBC Weekly Lunch
Hunan Garden
949 Walnut St.
Boulder, CO
303-442-2772

Thursday, July 12th, 6:30pm:
LPBC Board Meeting
Annual LPBC Elections
John Larkin's House
4009 Honeysuckle Way
Longmont, CO 80503
303-818-2648
See directions on page 6, call, or visit
www.lpboulder.com/Larkin-house.html

Sat, Sun, August 4-5, 9am - 5pm:
Tanner Gun Show
Denver Merchandise Mart
Denver, CO
Call Joe Johnson or Elizabeth
Bennett: 303-669-9111(cell)

Thursday, August 9th, 6:30pm:
LPBC Board Meeting
Golden Corral
2315 N. Main St.
Longmont, CO
303-772-4938

*For more info about all LPBC events,
contact Lori Van Buren: 970-278-1158
or visit our website:
www.lpboulder.com*

A Libertarian Social Contract

By Gene Trosper

I'm a Libertarian ... What does that mean for you?
[From <http://www.lpws.org/soccon.htm>]

I believe in tolerance.

That means I will tolerate your lifestyle so long as it remains peaceful and non-coercive to others. You can wear funny clothing, sport strange hairstyles, smoke whatever you wish, make love the way you want, worship in your own way ... it's your life to lead as you choose. Although I may not agree with some of your habits and choices, you still have the right to be you!

I believe in privacy.

That means I won't be peeking over your fence, staring through your windows, sorting through your trash or asking neighbors about your private life. I respect you as an autonomous individual capable of making your own decisions without the unsolicited "help" of myself or others (Of course, I'm always glad to help and offer advice if you ask though!). You won't find me trying to pry into your privacy.

I do not covet what is yours.

What you earn and own is yours, not mine. I do not

want to expropriate your hard-earned dollars for the benefit of myself, my family, my neighbors or total strangers. You, your money and property are safe around me. I will not steal -- and I will not ask the government to tax you for any reason. In fact, you will likely find me asking the government to give you (and everyone else) a break at tax time!

As a libertarian, this is my contract with you! All I simply ask is that you allow me the equal freedom to live my life unfettered. Once we agree, the basis of a more peaceful and abundant society will have been established.

Trosper is an LP activist and occasional writer, living in California.

Quotation ...

The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not sufficient warrant.

-- John Stuart Mill, On Liberty (1859)

LPBC Elections on July 12

by Tom Parker

As officially announced in the June newsletter, the annual meeting of the LPBC will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 12th at the home of John Larkin, at 4009 Honeysuckle Way Longmont (see directions below). At this annual meeting, in addition to regular board business, we will be holding the election of LPBC officers for 2001-2002.

To vote:

All voting members can vote, either in person at the July meeting, or with the official Absentee/Sample ballot. This ballot is sent to all voting members along with their July newsletter (and is available online at <http://www.lpboulder.com/ballot.html>). To vote with the Absentee/Sample ballot, either mail it to the address on the ballot so that it is received no later than 5 pm on election day, Thursday 7/12/01, or you may give it to someone attending the meeting.

Am I a voting member?

You can check your membership status by inspecting the mailing label on your newsletter -- there is a letter code immediately after the expiration date. Voting members have a letter code of "V".

Other codes are: "C" for Contributing (members who have not signed the Libertarian pledge), "T" for Trial, "P" for VIP, "R" for Prospect, and blank for anything else. If you are not sure what your membership status is, please contact Membership Director Tom Parker at tparker24@earthlink.net or (303) 665-2150.

To run for office:

All voting members are eligible and encouraged to

run for board positions. The deadline for being included on the sample ballot was 6/14/01, however, you can still run for office in person at the meeting.

As of this writing, we have only two announced candidates. If you would like to step-up and be a candidate for this position, please attend the meeting in person.

More info available on our website:

- k Duties of officers:
www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html#VI
- k Election of Officers of the Board:
www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html#Election
- k Complete By-Laws of the LPBC:
www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html
- k Latest election news:
www.lpboulder.com

Location of annual meeting and directions:

**John Larkin, 4009 Honeysuckle Way,
Longmont, CO 80503 (303) 818-2648**

Note: For more detailed directions, see www.lpboulder.com/Larkin-house.html.

- k Take Hwy. 119 about 9 miles north of Boulder.
- k Turn left (North) onto Airport Rd (it only goes North from 119). There is actually an Airport sign for Airport Rd..
- k Turn left (West), onto Staghorn. This is just before the stoplight at Nelson Road.
- k Turn left (South) onto Prairie Fire Circle.
- k The second left is Honeysuckle Way. The house is on the South corner of Honeysuckle Way and Prairie Fire.
- k Park along Prairie Fire, or in the cul-de-sac on Honeysuckle Way.

Liberty News

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John Larkin at: jlarkin@qualcomm.com
or: 4009 Honeysuckle Way, Longmont CO 80503

Editor: John Larkin

Contributors: Ron Bain, Tom Parker, Ralph Shnelvar, Bruce Waters

Larry Gibes Obituary

Lawrence Rowan 'Larry' Gibes
Oct. 11, 1952 - March 9, 2001

Lawrence Rowan "Larry" Gibes died of cancer on Friday, March 9, 2001, at his home in Longmont. He was 48.

Mr. Gibes had worked since 1980 as a computer programmer at Dialog Corp., an online database supplier located in Mountain View, Calif., telecommuting to the job from his home in Longmont for the last 11 years. He was born Oct. 11, 1952, to Joseph S. and Mary Lenore (Rowan) Gibes in Joliet, Ill.

Mr. Gibes was raised in Lockport, Ill., and graduated from Lockport High School in 1970. He graduated from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., in 1974 and completed post-graduate work at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He moved to the San Francisco Bay area in 1979. Mr. Gibes married Susan Jean Hess on Dec. 22, 1985, in Cupertino, Calif. They moved to Longmont in 1990 from Santa Clara County, Calif.

Mr. Gibes enjoyed photography and anything related to science. He was a loving father and was particularly devoted to his two sons. He was a member of the Libertarian Party of Boulder County.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Angelia, who died at birth. Survivors include his wife of Longmont; two sons, Kevin Gibes and Connor Gibes, both of Longmont; a daughter, Erin Kastle and her husband Nick of Greeley; and three brothers, Joseph Gibes and his wife Susan of Sunnysvale, Calif., Terrance Gibes and his wife Terri of Lockport, and Kernon Gibes and his wife Valerie of Mount Prospect, Ill.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, at Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont, with the Rev. Bruce McQueen officiating. Cremation will take place at Ahlberg Funeral Chapel and Crematory.

Contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to either the Lawrence Gibes Memorial Fund for his children or the Libertarian Party of Boulder County, in care of the Ahlberg Funeral Chapel.

Reprinted from the Longmont Daily Times-Call

Join the Libertarian Party of Boulder County!

Choose one of these options:

Combo Package: Join the LPBC, LP-CO, and LP-US for only \$40

Join the LPBC for THREE FULL YEARS for only \$42

Join the LPBC for the small annual fee of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____

Email address: _____

If you wish to be a voting member, please sign and date the following pledge:

"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: _____ Date: _____

Choose a membership plan above and enclose a check or money order payable to the LPBC for the amount listed. Send to: LPBC, PMB #427, 2525 Arapahoe Ave., E4, Boulder, CO 80302. *Thank you for your support!*

Libertarian Party Directory

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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LIBERTY NEWS

July 2001

Absentee/Sample Ballot

Board of Directors Election
Libertarian Party of Boulder County
Annual Meeting
4009 Honeysuckle Way, Longmont, CO 80503
Thursday, July 12, 2000 - 6:30 PM
<<See Instructions to Right>>

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CANDIDATES</u>
Chair	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Secretary	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Treasurer	Z <u>Chuck Wright (Incumbent)</u>
	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Membership	Z <u>Tom Parker (Incumbent)</u>
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Director	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Publicity	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Director	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Newsletter	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA
Editor	Z _____
	Z _____
	Z NOTA

Instructions:

To use this as an absentee ballot you must:

\ **Be a voting member of the LPBC**

\ **Sign here:**

\ **Date here:**

\ **Mail this ballot to:**

Libertarian Party of Boulder County
PMB #427
2525 Arapahoe Ave, E4
Boulder, CO 80302

so that it arrives before **5:00 pm** on election day, **Thursday 7/12/01**. Alternatively, you can give the ballot to someone who is attending the meeting in person.

More information:

Latest information is on our web site

<http://www.lpboulder.com>

"Duties of Officers"

<http://www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html#VI>

"Election of Officers of the Board"

<http://www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html#Election>

Complete "By-Laws of the LPBC"

<http://www.lpboulder.com/by-laws.html>