



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grover and Damon

FROM: Amanda

DATE: 5-20-04

RE: Colorado Center-Right Coalition Meeting

Date of meeting: 5-10-04
Number of people in attendance: 16
Length of meeting: 9:00 – 10:00 am

Those in attendance included:

Jon Caldera	Independence Institute, moderator
ME	
Jeff Weist	political strategist
Colin Campbell	Federal Victory 2004
Jack Stansburg	Bob Leauprey's office
David Myers	ABC
Jessica Cory	SD 19 candidate
Penn Pfiffner	CO Union of Taxpayers
Scott Spendlove	Corporate Affairs
Sen. Mark Hillman	Senate Majority Leader
David Waldrup	CO GOP
Frank McNulty	Department of Natural Resources
Rep. Sean Mitchell	property rights
Richard Poole	Sen. Wayne Allard's office
Dan	?
Tim Jackson	NFIB

- Jon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone there and then we did introductions around the table.
- Jessica Cory told us about her candidacy for the 19th SD against Sue Windells. She said the difference between her and Sue is that she trusts the people and Sue doesn't. Her race is one of 5 targeted by both state parties and it could be the most expensive race in state senate history. **I asked her to sign the pledge**

but she was a little hesitant because she has never heard of it; she is young. I have asked Sandra to follow-up with her.

- I spoke for about 20 minutes on the state center-right coalition meetings and the pledge and answered their questions about ATR.
- Sen. Hillman spoke for a few minutes and said that he doesn't think that a special session will be called because you need a 2/3 majority in both houses.
- Jon talked about the growing distrust on the ROTD proposal and how it is a 67% tax increase for a rail proposal that no one will use.
- Penn Pfiffner announced an event that the CO Union of Taxpayers is hosting at 6:00 pm on Thursday.
- **It was announced that the Dems have certified the Pro-Life Party and the Gun Rights Party for November to appear on the ballot and they are making a concerted effort to get candidates on the ballot.**

After the meeting I met with Sean Duffy, Deputy Chief of Staff in Governor Bill Owens office for a half hour.

- ✓ We talked about the coalition meeting and how it has appeared that Jon has been holding his meetings at the exact time that anyone from the Governor's office can't attend due to their senior staff meeting.
- ✓ Sean said that the Governor needs to get support from more organizations not just from Jon – Jon has made himself the clearing house for all the groups in the state and the support needs to come from more than one "voice."
- ✓ He suggested that I contact William Mutch in Sen. John Andrews office as a possible co- moderator/chair.
- ✓ He said that the group desperately needs social activists.

I took Jon Caldera out to lunch; 1 ½ hours.

- ❖ Jon came right out and said that the meeting is not a priority for him.
- ❖ He said that he doesn't want any social activists involved.
- ❖ He made it pretty clear that he wasn't really open to working with people who may be "squishy" on some of his office.
- ❖ **He said that he would like GGN to talk to the Governor about coming out against the RTD and the weakening of TABOR.** (I told G about this last week).

I met with Penn Pfiffner, CO Union of Taxpayers about the status of the meeting; 40 minutes.

- He wanted to chat with me because he sees history repeating itself. He told me about a group that used to meet with Jon Andrews at the head called the Lincoln Club.
- The Lincoln Club started with a broad coalition that shared common-ground on some issues, not with the intent of changing each other's minds.

- At the time Penn was the Libertarian representative and the NFIB rep. (late 80s)
- After 1 year the group had dwindled significantly and John stopped holding them because it was the same small group of people that kept saying the same small minded things.
- Since Penn has been to the DC meeting here and understands that everyone feels they need to be at The Wednesday Meeting to be seen and to hear what is going on, he realizes that is what we are trying to replicate in the states.
- **He said that all the conservatives know each other in CO but agreed that we do need to expand the coalition; he said flat out that this is not a natural fit for the Independence Institute.**
- As far as my suggestion of adding a co-chair he doesn't think that Jon is very territorial and he thinks that bringing up the social issues as a way in (since the Independence Institute doesn't deal with social issues) would be a good idea.
- Some of his suggestions included:

Pat Miller	Rep. leader of Pro-Life movement (303) 666-8716
Athena Mitchell	CO Republican Assembly
Roger Old	Activist on protecting voting roger.olds@mstar2.net
Tim Leonard	left Rep. party to start American Constitution Party ran against Owens
Leslie Hanks	social conservative activist on Eastern Plains
- His main suggestion was to get someone from the Colorado Springs area because that is where the social conservatives are really active.
- If we wanted to do two groups, one in Denver and one in Colorado Springs, his suggestions was Dan Negemer, editor for the newspaper there who knows everyone.
- **He encouraged ATR to use CUT more to get info out to people in the state.**

Assessment: In my opinion, Jon is not the right person to be moderating this meeting. He has an attitude and is not very open-minded. From talking to people it seems that activist are more afraid of what will happen if they don't think the same was as the Independence Institute rather than respecting him – the very opposite of what we want in a coalition leader. Also, from what I have been told, the meetings are not held regularly and the turnout is sporadic. I think that we need to find a way to bring in another person as a co-chair that would bring the social conservatives into the mix and hopefully even phase Jon out over time. **I think that if Grover could call Jon and talk to him about the need to broaden the meeting and the possibility of a co-chair that he would go for it.** Then I could bring in someone to work with him.