

## Colorado leads nationwide anti-'gay rights' revolt

by Kathleen Klenetsky

The crusade by the homosexual lobby and its supporters to legitimize the "gay" lifestyle ran into a major roadblock this past November, when the citizens of the state of Colorado voted for an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits the extension of preferential treatment to homosexuals.

Much to the dismay of the "gay" movement and its backers, such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Colorado victory has galvanized an incipient national revolt against what has become an extraordinarily aggressive campaign by homosexual activists to infiltrate their agenda into the nation's institutions, from the schools and churches to the military and media. Already, efforts are afoot to put measures similar to that adopted in Colorado on the ballot in at least seven other states in 1993 and 1994.

Known formally as Amendment Two, the Colorado initiative not only rescinded "anti-discrimination" ordinances extending special rights to homosexuals that had been adopted in three of the state's cities, but it also prohibits such ordinances from being enacted in the future. Despite the fact that opponents of the amendment outspent supporters by a two-to-one margin, the measure passed by a vote of 53.6-42.4%.

Far from being the discriminatory measure the national media and the homosexual rights mob have depicted it to be, Amendment Two simply states that homosexuals should not be considered a special minority, with the special privileges such a designation would involve.

The text of the amendment, as it appeared on the ballot, reads: "Shall there be an amendment to Article II of the Colorado Constitution to prohibit the state of Colorado and any of its political subdivisions from adopting or enforcing any law or policy which provides that homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation or conduct, or relationships constitutes or entitles a person to claim any minority or protected

status, quota, preference or discrimination?"

"Homosexuals have the same civil rights under the Constitution as do other Americans," says Will Perkins, head of Colorado for Family Values (CFV), the group which sponsored the amendment, collecting approximately 85,000 signatures to put it on the ballot. "What we object to is their desire to obtain a special protected status, like ethnic minorities or the handicapped," Perkins said in an interview with *EIR*.

Perkins said the CFV was formed about a year and a half ago, when homosexual activists were moving to enact a pro-"gay" rights ordinance similar to those already in force in Denver, Aspen, and Boulder. "Rather than trying to build an organization that would fight community by community, we decided to take the ballot initiative route," attacking the problem at the state level.

"We don't hate homosexuals," Perkins told *EIR*, "but we feel they are looking for special status" under the law. Perkins expressed concern that once such special status was written into law, the homosexual lobby would use it as the legal basis for implementing the rest of their agenda, from promoting homosexual marriages, to force-feeding schoolchildren the lie that homosexual perversion represents a valid "alternative" lifestyle, such as is being done now in the New York City school system.

### Effects of the boycott

Passage of Amendment Two has sent the gay lobby and its political allies into a frenzy. Fearing that the measure will set a precedent for similar initiatives elsewhere, Colorado has been made the target of a national lynch mob, whose organizers have made it very clear that they want to "teach Colorado a lesson."

"People need to know that if they adopt measures that

discriminate against gays they will be ostracized," says Bill Rubenstine of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, which is involved in efforts to overturn Amendment Two through the courts.

A boycott of the state, endorsed by the *New York Times* and other organs of the liberal establishment, has already caused Colorado to lose a reported \$20 million in business, although that figure is disputed. In fact, according to published reports, tourism at Colorado's ski resorts has soared 20% this winter, while only one of the 125 conferences which out-of-state groups had previously planned to hold in Colorado has actually been canceled.

Moreover, the boycott appears to have increased support within Colorado for Amendment Two. A poll conducted in late December for the liberal *Denver Post* and local television station Four showed that 94% of those queried had not changed their minds about Amendment Two, and that 43% said the boycott made them less likely to support its repeal.

Ironically, the boycott has also caused a split in the anti-Amendment Two coalition, between those who support it, and those who don't, either because they own a business which stands to be hurt by the boycott, or are Hollywood glitterati types, like Barbra Streisand, who spend their winters schussing down Aspen's ski slopes, and aren't inclined to give up their hedonistic pleasures even for the politically correct issue of gay rights.

"People [in Aspen] act as if they are exempt from all this," complained Jan Williams, of Boycott Colorado, the group coordinating the boycott, to the Dec. 30 *New York Times*. "Even gays in Aspen act aloof as if the end of their civil rights doesn't matter that much. Isn't there anything more important to them than their own momentary pleasure?"

In addition to economic warfare, supporters of gay rights are using legal maneuvers against Amendment Two. The ACLU, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the cities of Boulder, Aspen, and Denver (which had passed gay rights ordinances) have joined with several other organizations to file suit in federal court to overturn the measure. An initial hearing on their action was expected to occur on Jan. 11.

The pro-drug, pro-abortion Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) has, not surprisingly, jumped into the fray. According to Bobbie Towbin, an official at the ADL's Denver office, the group "formally opposed" Amendment Two prior to the election "on the grounds that it discriminates against homosexuals." In the aftermath of Amendment Two's passage, the ADL has "offered our services to the Colorado Legal Initiatives project and Equality Colorado," the two organizations spearheading the campaign to overturn Amendment Two in the courts. In addition, Towbin says the ADL "will probably file an *amicus* brief" against Amendment Two.

"What's really going on is that certain homosexuals are terrified that Amendment Two-type measures will pop up in other states, and they want to preempt that by terrifying

people into thinking that they will be economically destroyed," Paul Hetrick of Focus on the Family told *EIR*.

### Family-oriented groups not deterred

But neither the threat of economic warfare nor legal action has deterred family-oriented groups in other states from trying to get Amendment Two-modeled initiatives passed in their locales. So far, individuals or groups in California, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, and Ohio are working to put similar measures on the ballot.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) is currently reworking a constitutional amendment that it had placed on the ballot this past November, but which was defeated. Like the Colorado initiative, Measure 9 would have banned legislation giving homosexuals the same legal standing as ethnic minorities under federal civil rights laws; in addition, it would have written into the state constitution language designating homosexuality as "perverse, abnormal, unnatural, and wrong."

Nathan Carroll of OCA said in an interview with *EIR* that the group plans to put another anti-"gay rights" amendment on the ballot in 1994. In consultation with attorneys and other interested parties, OCA has decided to drop the word "perverse" from the new measure, but is still in the process of developing a final version.

Carroll is hopeful that the Catholic Church in Oregon, which opposed Measure 9, will either support the new version, or at least remain neutral. The church "got a lot of flak" for opposing the measure, Carroll reported, including from rank-and-file parishioners who "believe the church's teaching that homosexuality is a sin."

Carroll said that OCA had distributed copies of a statement which Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued to the American Catholic bishops in June, addressing the issue of homosexual rights legislation. "Such initiatives, even where they seem to be more directed toward support of basic civil rights than condonement of homosexual activity, may in fact have a negative impact on the family and society," it stated. "Such things as the adoption of children, the hiring and firing of teachers, the housing needs of genuine families, landlords' legitimate concerns in screening potential tenants, for example, are often implicated."

The OCA has decided to expand its operations, and is now in the process of setting up citizens alliances in Idaho and Washington, with the express purpose of mounting similar efforts in these states.

According to the Clinton-Gore transition office, President-elect Clinton has not yet made a public statement on the Colorado fight. But given his notorious support for "gay" rights, a position he took early and often during the campaign, not to mention his post-election statement that he will repeal the ban on homosexuals in the military, it would come as no surprise were he to come down on the side of the anti-Amendment Two forces.