

CHAPTER 26

THE FINAL WEEKS

On Saturday, October 1, 1994, Roy Romer set about a typical day of campaigning for reelection as governor of Colorado. He drove himself, by himself, to Kepner Hall on the University of Northern Colorado campus in Greeley to debate Bruce Benson. As he entered the hall, the governor was informed by the debate organizers they had received a suspicious telephone call inquiring about Romer's whereabouts. It was decided to have a state policeman pick Romer up in a state patrol car and drive him to his next campaign event, which was in Fort Collins, some 25 miles from Greeley.

As Romer and his driver, Trooper Steve Stevenson, drove past the outskirts of Greeley, they suddenly noticed a red Chevrolet following them. It was possibly a Chevy Cavalier, a 1988 to 1991 model, occupied by two white men between the ages of 20 and 30. Suspicious because of the earlier warning to the governor, Trooper Stevenson maneuvered to get away from the red car. He explained: "I tried at that point to use some evasive actions - changing lanes and speeds. It was apparent that the car was paralleling all our actions." Trooper Stevenson also switched on the unmarked patrol car's flashing red-and-blue lights, which were mounted on its rear deck and bumper.

The governor and the trooper were heading west on U.S. Highway 34, a major road. The speed of the patrol car was hitting 90 miles-per-hour, but the red car was sticking close behind. Fearing the pursuers might be armed and start firing weapons at him, Governor Romer crouched down in the passenger seat to protect himself. Trooper Stevenson was armed with a Smith and Wesson 9-millimeter revolver.

The state patrol car, all lights flashing, roared up to the interchange at U.S. Highway 34 and Interstate Highway 25. Trooper Stevenson headed north on I-25 toward Fort Collins, hitting speeds of 110 miles-per-hour on the superhighway and continuing to try to "ditch" the governor's pursuers. This time the weaving in and out of traffic worked and the tailing vehicle started to drop back. After getting some large

tractor-trailer trucks between the governor's car and the red Chevy, the state trooper took one of the exits off the interstate into Fort Collins. The two men in the following vehicle continued north on I-25 and were lost from sight.

Trooper Stevenson had radioed the State Patrol for help at the beginning of the high-speed chase. Additional state police cars did not get to the scene in time to chase the red car and attempt to stop it. Governor Romer and Trooper Stevenson had only been able to get part of the car's license number.

Roy Romer was able to complete the remainder of the day's campaigning, making his scheduled appearance in Fort Collins, stopping by to speak at a north Denver restaurant, and attending a fund-raiser at the Red Lion Inn in Denver. He appeared to be more mystified than frightened by the incident. He explained:

"I've had lots of threats, you get those about once a week, but this is the first time I've been chased.... We took every precaution we could. We were concerned about going that fast, but we saw it as the safest thing to do. Clearly anyone who pursues a patrol car with flashing lights at over 100 miles an hour is of concern."¹

In classic Romer fashion, the governor used the car telephone in the state patrol car to alert the news media to what had happened. While driving from campaign event to campaign event later in the day, he gave direct quotes about his adventure to the principal newspapers and television stations around the state.² The tailgating chase of a sitting governor campaigning for reelection made news as far away from Colorado as the East Coast of the United States.

The state police computer was unable to identify any red Chevy's that might have been the chase car, even with a partial license plate number as the main clue. There also was some explaining to do as to why, during a 20-minute high-speed chase across heavily-populated northern Colorado, no other police vehicles were able to get to the scene to protect the governor and apprehend his pursuers. In addition, Governor Romer was severely criticized for driving alone around the

state of Colorado when state police protection had been made readily available to him.³

The "Great Governor Chase" stirred up a significant amount of publicity for Roy Romer, but the story died almost as quickly as it had come up. Similar to the identity of the person who dressed in a chicken suit and bedeviled Bruce Benson during the Republican primary campaign, the identities of the two young persons in the red Chevy were never learned.

Fred Brown of the *Denver Post* concluded that the battle between Roy Romer and Bruce Benson was becoming one of the most interesting, and weird, in Colorado history. When else, Brown wrote, has there been: "The clash of multimillionaires [Romer and Benson]. Shocking revelations [Benson's DUIs]. Sealed files unsealed [Benson's divorce]. And now high-speed car chases."⁴

NO MORE DEBATES - AGAIN

On October 6, 1994, Bruce Benson canceled his eight remaining debates with Roy Romer.

Up to that time the two candidates had debated six times. These debates were lively confrontations with a full discussion of some important state issues. The debates were well-covered by the news media, but no reporters or commentators had publicly stated that either Romer or Benson was "winning" the debates. Benson had not done well in a debate in Greeley the previous Saturday but was regarded as having done a competent job in several of the other face-to-face confrontations between the two candidates.

In other words, there was no obvious reason for Bruce Benson to so arbitrarily cancel the eight remaining debates.

Bruce Benson dropped out of the previously-negotiated debate schedule with flair. He called a news conference at which he stated frankly that Roy Romer was a "better debater." He unveiled a three-foot high "championship debater trophy" for the press to ogle. He then had

the trophy delivered to Romer's office. The trophy was inscribed: "Roy Romer, Master Debater, 1958-1994."

"No more debates," Benson forthrightly told the Colorado political press corps. The Republican gubernatorial candidate explained: "After six of them, we know the governor's a better debater. So what. This thing isn't about winning debates.... We let Roy Romer sucker us into playing his game on his field by his rules. We're going back to the people. We're getting back on the bus."

Benson argued that Romer had bamboozled him into "getting away from our roots...away from the people." The debates, Benson said, were interfering with his campaign plans to talk directly with the voters of Colorado. That's why the bus campaigning, which had worked so well in the Republican primary, was being reinstated. "We want to go back on our game plan," Benson said, "and play by our rules."

Furthermore, Benson concluded, the debates wasted time on issues that were not "the prime ones in this campaign." He explained: "Someone's always asking me a question about something I've never heard of. I was once asked about sugar beet subsidies."

Sugar beets are grown in many sections of rural Colorado and can be processed into table sugar. Unable to compete with inexpensive cane sugar from the Caribbean, Colorado sugar beets require a U.S. Government subsidy to be a profitable agricultural crop. Although the vast majority of Coloradans, who live in cities and suburbs, do not care about sugar beet subsidies, it is an issue of considerable importance in much of rural Colorado. Benson probably lost some votes by making light of sugar beet subsidies.

Just as Benson's refusal to debate his opponents had stirred up a storm of discussion and criticism in the Republican primary, his refusal to debate Romer stirred up an even larger storm in the general election. The severest criticism, of course, came from Roy Romer, who noted that Benson "didn't keep his word," made during a solo appearance on a Colorado Springs radio talk-show, to debate the issues. Romer said he fully intended to appear at all the remaining debates by himself.

Furthermore, the incumbent governor argued, Benson's refusal to debate raised questions about Benson's ability to be governor. The voters deserved to make side-by-side comparisons of the two candidates, Romer said, because governor's have to "stand up" on issues and "stand up" to adversaries. Romer explained:

"If you're going to be governor, a good part of your job is to - in public, with adversaries - advocate a point of view, answer questions about your point of view and defend your point of view."

The Colorado political consultants had their moment analyzing Bruce Benson's latest surprise maneuver. "This [Benson] campaign is just mondo bizarro [a bizarre world]," said Democratic consultant Steve Welchert. It is "lurching from one crisis to another."

Perhaps the most accurate analysis was provided by Denver political analyst Floyd Ciruli. "[Benson] was never anxious to get into these debates, and indeed they've not had any positive benefit for him," Ciruli explained. "Now he's behind and he only has five weeks left. He believes the only chance he's got is to get the attention focused back on crime and welfare and big government."⁵

It was clear that Bruce Benson intended to spend the last month before general election day emphasizing television and radio advertising, television and radio talk-show appearances, and direct mail. His voter contact would be limited to meetings with the small groups of citizens, most of them committed Republicans, who would turn out to see him at his various "bus stops." After debating Roy Romer face-to-face six times, Bruce Benson decided to turn back to the two techniques that had so handily won him the Republican primary: "no debates" and "ride that bus!"

But the Roy Romer forces made Bruce Benson "pay the price." Immediately following Benson's announcement that there would be no more debates, Alan Salazar, Romer's campaign manager, said: "I can't believe Bruce Benson is ducking out of the debates. We should have a duck follow him."

The thought was father to the deed, and the deed was soon

accomplished. A Romer campaign worker, Matt Cheroutes, searched all over Denver and eventually found a duck suit at a costume shop, "A Total Image," in Arvada, a northwestern suburb. Cheroutes dressed in the duck costume and began showing up at Benson campaign events. Cheroutes made it clear that he and the duck suit were there to highlight the point that Bruce Benson was "ducking" all his remaining debates with Roy Romer.⁶ It was almost as though the Roy Romer campaign staff had read the Mike Bird for Governor campaign memo suggesting that the "chicken" turn into a "duck."⁷

"Our 'duck' was a blatant copy of the 'chicken' from the Republican primary campaign," said Scott Chase, Romer's deputy campaign manager. "We knew the duck would get on Bruce Benson's nerves, but we did not expect Bruce to get upset as soon as he did. Almost the first time we sent the duck out there, Bruce Benson was yelling at it in front of the TV cameras. We later heard from Bruce Morton, who came to Colorado to cover the Romer-Benson campaign for Cable News Network (CNN), that the Benson staff had their advance people reporting to Benson when there was or wasn't the duck at an upcoming event. Every time the duck appeared at a Benson campaign event, it was 'crowded around' and 'jostled' by angry Benson campaign workers."⁸

At a political rally in Pueblo, the Romer campaign handed out toy ducks to further highlight the "ducking debates" issue.

The public apparently agreed with Roy Romer that Bruce Benson did the wrong thing by ending the debates. According to a *Rocky Mountain News*/KUSA-TV Channel 9 poll, 56 percent of Colorado registered voters said Bruce Benson "made a mistake" when he cancelled those eight remaining debates with Roy Romer.⁹

"BAD NEWS" BENSON

By mid-October of 1994 the Benson for Governor campaign was in a tailspin. The latest *Denver Post*/KCNC-TV Channel 4 poll showed Benson still running more than 20 percentage points behind Roy Romer.

Even in Colorado Springs, the most enthusiastically Republican spot in the entire state, the word around El Paso County Republican headquarters was that Bruce Benson was "a goner." The Republican organization in Colorado Springs began gearing itself to try to limit the damage which Benson's "negative coattails" would have on Republican candidates in local races.

Fred Brown, a political columnist for the *Denver Post*, acknowledged that some of Bruce Benson's severest problems were initiated by the news media. The voter poll predictions that were hurting him so badly were coming from the newspapers and the television stations. It also was true that Benson's divorce file, by far the toughest hit he had taken in the news media, came under public scrutiny only after television Channel 9 successfully sued to open the file.

"But some of it Benson did to himself," Brown wrote. "His revelation of two drunk-driving arrests in the early '80s, his being the first to debut a negative attack ad [the ad on taxes], and his decision to stop debating Romer.... It's hard to put a positive spin on these facts. They are all negative by nature."

There was some hope for Bruce Benson by mid-October of 1994, but not much. His expected TV blitz the last weeks before election day could possibly "narrow the gap" between him and Roy Romer. Romer might commit a big gaffe - a stupid mistake - that might bring his "negatives" with the public more in line with Bruce Benson's. But if there were any positives for the Benson campaign in mid-October of 1994, Fred Brown concluded, one had to look very, very hard to find them.¹⁰

THE DENVER SCHOOL TEACHERS STRIKE

On Monday, October 10, 1994, the Denver Classroom Teachers Association went on strike against the Denver Public Schools. In Colorado public schools are mainly a matter of local rather than state concern, so the organization with primary responsibility for settling the

strike was the locally-elected Denver School Board. The school board tried to keep the public schools open and operating by hiring substitute teachers, but many parents kept their children home during the strike. Children who attended school found both discipline and teaching at a low ebb due to so many substitute teachers being on the job.

The strike was major news all over Colorado. More than 63,000 students attended Denver Public Schools, making it one of the largest public school systems in the state. Approximately 2,240 of the system's 3,800 teachers were missing from their classrooms during the strike, and almost one-third of the students - some 20,000 - were staying home each day the strike lasted.¹¹

When the strike was in its third day, the Denver District Court upheld the teachers' right to strike. At that moment incumbent Democratic governor Roy Romer stepped publicly into the fray. No matter that this was strictly an issue between a local school board and a local teachers union and that the governor had no legal jurisdiction or authority whatsoever. Roy Romer called the Denver School Board and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association to his offices at the state Capitol for closed-door meetings to try to end the strike.

The school board members were closeted in one room and the teachers union representatives in another. This permitted Roy Romer and his state labor director, Joe Donlon, to play the role of shuttle diplomats. It also meant that neither the school board members nor the teachers union representatives were available to comment to the press. Roy Romer could be interviewed as he made his way between the two rooms, however, and get his photograph taken.¹² He told the news media:

"It is obvious we have children who are not being taught and I have both a legal obligation and a moral obligation to get those children taught every day."¹³

The Denver school strike, and Roy Romer's prominent efforts to settle it, swept the Benson campaign for governor out of the newspapers and off the local television news. Knowing a good thing when he saw

it, Romer cancelled his campaign schedule for the remainder of the week and concentrated all his time at the state Capitol in Denver. He passed up major campaign events in Colorado Springs, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Aspen, and Rifle.¹⁴

No one was watching as Bruce Benson made his way around Denver and the rest of the state in his recently revived, banner-bedecked campaign bus. All of the television stations had their "remote units" - nine white trucks worth - parked at the governor's office at the state Capitol waiting for news from Roy Romer and the school strike talks.¹⁵

Benson made a half-hearted attempt at getting some publicity out of the school strike by accusing Romer of getting involved too late. The incumbent Democratic governor had not gotten involved in the process until "the 13th hour," the Republican challenger said. Benson's criticism of Romer played on page 19A of the *Denver Post* the same day that Roy Romer was starring in both a picture and a lead story on the school strike on page 1A.¹⁶

And then, just in time for banner headlines on Sunday morning, the Denver School Board and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association settled their strike. After almost 20 hours of negotiations with Roy Romer playing the role of lead peacemaker, the school teachers voted to accept the final settlement. Roy Romer not only rated front-page photographs in the major newspapers but was quoted at length on his part in reaching the contract agreement.¹⁷

The Denver school strike once again illustrated Roy Romer's consummate skills at using his position as governor of Colorado to simultaneously accomplish good purposes and draw attention to himself. At a critical time in his reelection campaign in 1994, he had been able to mount the "bully pulpit" and call loudly to other Coloradans (the school board and the school teachers) to do what was best for their state. For one full week of the 1994 gubernatorial election campaign, with but three weeks to go before election day, it had been as if Republican candidate Bruce Benson had not existed at all.

Was the 1994 Denver school teachers strike just a publicity stunt?

Once the strike was settled, two members of the Denver School Board said that, before the strike began, the difference between what the board was offering and what the teachers wanted was very slight and did not merit a strike. "If Mahatma Gandhi had been on the [school board] negotiating team, [the school teachers] still would have gone on strike," said school board member Lynn Coleman. She added: "I think their agenda was to have this catharsis, to paralyze the city, but it was at a big price." Coleman was joined by board member Aaron Gray, who said the school teachers would have only had to give "just a little bit" to avoid a strike.¹⁸

It really did not make a great deal of difference whether the Denver school strike was "planned" or not. Incumbent Democratic governor Roy Romer had parlayed helping to find a settlement to the school strike into a major positive in his reelection campaign. His lead over Republican Bruce Benson in the public opinion polls continued to hold steady at more than 20 percentage points.¹⁹

CHARGE AND COUNTERCHARGE

In late October of 1994 the Benson for Governor campaign was given one last chance to develop some real negatives about Democratic opponent Roy Romer. The *Rocky Mountain News* sent a reporter out to check the activity records of the Colorado State Patrol officers who guard Governor Roy Romer and his family. The *Rocky* did a big exposé when it found state troopers had dropped off Romer family cars for repairs, picked up Romer family members at the airport, gotten the governor personal cash at cash machines, and on three occasions helped the governor's youngest daughter move to and from her college in Connecticut. In addition, state police officers had taken the governor's favorite leather jacket to be repaired, made deliveries to the governor's mother-in-law at a nursing home, and helped repair the plumbing at the Romer family's mountain vacation home in Bailey, Colorado.

Roy Romer was quick to admit that all such actions by the state

patrol were "improper" and had been stopped by his direct order. When confronted by the *Rocky Mountain News*, he immediately wrote a check for \$1,123.50 to reimburse the state for the time one of the troopers had taken to escort the governor's daughter back to college on the East Coast. The *Rocky* ran a photograph of the check, with Roy Romer's personal signature prominently displayed.²⁰

When asked to comment on these revelations about Roy Romer's and his family's misuse of the state patrol, Bruce Benson described them as evidence of Romer's "arrogance." The GOP candidate explained:

"He's supposed to be fixing problems, not living off taxpayers and using the patrol to do things they shouldn't be doing.... I was pretty shocked. It think it comes down to this whole thing about incumbency. When you've been around a long time, you get arrogant.... It's just that old 'feeding-at-the-trough' mentality.... Somebody even asked me today, 'Is this criminal?' Maybe it is."

Benson supporters were immediately dispatched to a Romer press conference waving signs with messages such as: "Misusing troopers - shame on you, Roy!"²¹ The Benson forces were trying to get even with the Romer forces for sending out that "duck" to symbolize Bruce Benson "ducking debates."

The Benson campaign was quick to work the issue of inappropriate use of state troopers into its radio and television advertising. A widely-distributed radio ad faulted Romer for traveling outside the state too much, for paroling too many criminals, and for no convicted murderers being executed in Colorado. The ad then said:

"And now, Roy Romer admits that he used Colorado state troopers to do his personal plumbing and act as his personal butlers. An admission that may go before the grand jury."²² The radio ad ran simultaneously with a television spot on the same subject. The final scene of the TV ad showed an elderly woman looking at the camera and saying in amazement: "He used the state police to fix his plumbing?"

In an effort to help Bruce Benson draw more attention to Roy Romer's problems with the state patrol, Don Bain, the state chairman of

the Colorado Republican Party, called for an official investigation of the matter. Bain said:

"Colorado has a well-deserved reputation for clean and honest government. Unfortunately Governor Romer's recent acknowledgements of his administration's improper use of state funds came only after press scrutiny. It is obvious that a grand jury investigation is the only way to remove public doubt that these revelations have created and insure that Colorado taxpayers will be reimbursed."²³

Continuing the policy of answering any Benson action with an action of their own, the Romer for Governor campaign staff called for a grand jury investigation of Bruce Benson's campaign techniques. The Romer camp charged that Benson was circulating an unacknowledged flyer which condemned Roy Romer for supporting gay and lesbian rights in Colorado. The Romerites also accused the Bensonites of using "push-polls" to anonymously give negative facts to the voters about Roy Romer, specifically facts about the large number of days Romer spent outside the state while he was governor. Benson openly admitted he was once again using the controversial push-polls that had generated so much criticism of him during the Republican primary.

"Bruce Benson using push-polling in the general election really surprised me," said Scott Chase, Romer's deputy campaign manager. "I said to myself, 'There's *no way* Benson would use push-polling a second time,' but there he was doing it again. The Mike Bird campaign was important to us here, because we knew Bird had bloodied Benson up badly on the push-polling issue. Similar to what Bird had done, we went after Benson on the push-polling issue as hard as we could."²⁴

This entire episode of charges and countercharges ended on a low rather than a high note. Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton ordered an official investigation of both the Benson charges against Romer and the Romer charges against Benson. Norton, a Republican, had a group of Democratic and Republican district attorneys join her in the investigation so that it would be strictly non-partisan in character. The

investigation, which was carried out in a matter of days, revealed no legal wrongdoing on either Romer's or Benson's part.²⁵

JUST BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Roy Romer received a somewhat unexpected boost late in the campaign when Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot, an unsuccessful independent candidate for U.S. president in 1992, endorsed Romer's candidacy. Perot's support for Romer was announced in a series of mailings and newspaper ads which Perot, who made his fortune in the computer services industry, paid for himself to the tune of \$62,175. There was some irony in Ross Perot publicly backing Roy Romer. Bruce Benson had made it a strong part of his campaign to win the 23 percent of Colorado voters who had cast their ballots for Perot in 1992.²⁶

Roy Romer and Bruce Benson each undertook a flurry of personal campaigning as election day neared. Benson, as he promised when he cancelled the remaining debates, got back on his bus and campaigned around the state. Romer, refusing to be outdone despite the fact the polls showed him well in the lead, embarked on a 30-city bus and airplane tour of his own. Romer also purchased additional television and radio advertising to try to offset a last-minute advertising blitz by Bruce Benson. Therefore it was in an atmosphere of charge and countercharge that Colorado voters headed to the polls on Tuesday, November 8, 1994. The path to election day had been a long and tortuous one, beginning almost two years earlier when Mike Bird first told the news media he was going to run for governor. The effort had been a costly one for all concerned. Campaign finance reports filed the week before election day revealed that Roy Romer and Bruce Benson, up to that point in time, had spent a total of \$8.7 million in the 1994 gubernatorial election, making it the most expensive election in Colorado history. More than \$3.6 million of the \$8.7 million total spent by the week before election day was Bruce Benson's own money.²⁷

Notes To Chapter 26:

1. Maureen Harrington, "Romer target of chase," Denver Post, 2 October 1994, 1A.
2. Teresa Owen-Cooper, "Romer's driver eludes pursuers," Colorado Spring Gazette Telegraph, 2 October 1994, A1.
3. Chuck Green, "Hunt for Red October triggered by Chevy Chase," Denver Post, 9 October 1994.
4. Fred Brown, "Who were those guys anyway?" Denver Post, 5 October 1994, 7B.
5. This account of Benson's "no debates" decision is based mainly on Angela Dire, "Benson: 'No more debates,'" Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 7 October 1994, A1. See also Jennifer Gavin, "Benson: No debates," Denver Post, 7 October 1994, 1A.
6. Jennifer Gavin, "Romer bumps stumps," Denver Post, 15 October 1994, 14A. For a look at "the duck" at a 10 October 1994 Benson rally, see photograph by Thomas Kelsey, Rocky Mountain News, 6 November 1994, 31A. For a drawing of "the duck" and the 20 questions "the duck" asked Benson the last 20 days of the election campaign, see the Romer advertisement, "Duck but please don't hide," Colorado Statesman, 28 October 1994, 23.
7. See pages __-__.
8. Author's notes, telephone interview with Scott Chase, 23 December 1994.
9. "Romer given Hispanic group's first-ever nod," Denver Post, 19 October 1994, 4B.
10. Fred Brown, "Bruce 'Bad News' Benson," Denver Post, 12 October 1994, 7B.

11. Angela Dire, "Teachers in Denver have right to strike, judge says," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 13 October 1994, A1. Note that the Gazette Telegraph reporter who ordinarily covered the gubernatorial election campaign was sent to cover the Denver school strike.

12. Associated Press photograph, "Governor Roy Romer travels Thursday between offices at the Capitol in Denver, helping with negotiations in the teachers strike," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 14 October 1994, A1.

13. Mark Stevens, "Teacher talks go late," Denver Post, 13 October 1994, 1A.

14. Jennifer Gavin, "Romer bumps stumps," Denver Post, 15 October 1994, 14A.

15. Fred Brown, "Playing referee is one of the few things a governor can do," Denver Post, 14 October 1994, 1B.

16. Mark Stevens, "Strike talks making 'progress,'" Denver Post, 14 October 1994, 1A. Photograph by Brian Brainerd, "Making Headway," Denver Post, 14 October 1994, 1A.

17. Tracy Seipel and Janet Bingham, "Teachers approve contract;" Janet Bingham, "Romer: Accord on cutting edge of reform;" photograph by Kent Meireis, "Relieved;" all in Denver Post, 16 October 1994, 1A.

18. Mark Stevens, "2 on board say strike planned," Denver Post, 19 October 1994, 1A.

19. A Ciruli & Associates poll for the Rocky Mountain News and KUSA-TV Channel 9 in mid-October showed Romer with 52 percent and Benson with only 29 percent. See "Romer given Hispanic group's first-ever nod," Denver Post, 19 October 1994, 4B. See also Fred Brown, "A threepat for Romer?" Denver Post, 6 November 1994, 1A.

20. Katie Kerwin, "Troopers did personal jobs for Romers," Rocky

21. Jennifer Gavin, "Romer admits trooper misuses," Denver Post, 22 October 1994, 1A.
22. Jeffrey A. Roberts, "Ad misuses statistic in lawsuit," Denver Post, 29 October 1994, 1B.
23. "GOP chief calls for Romer grand-jury probe," Denver Post, 23 October 1994, 2C.
24. Author's notes, telephone interview with Scott Chase, 23 December 1994.
25. John Sanko, "Romer, Benson camps break no laws," Rocky Mountain News, 5 November 1994, 5A. "Romer, Benson 'cleared,'" Denver Post, 5 November 1994, 1A. "Campaign allegations unfounded," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 5 November 1994, B1.
26. Associated Press report, "Perot backs Romer's reelection bid," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 22 October 1994, B4. Angela Dire, "Perot gives Romer camp big bucks," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 28 October 1994, B1. Citizens for Romer '94 paid political advertisement, "A message from Ross Perot," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 30 October 1994, A27.
27. Jeff Thomas, "Campaign cost at \$8 million and counting," Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, 29 October 1994, A1. Adriel Bettelheim, "'94 race for governor most costly ever for Colorado," Denver Post, 5 November 1994, 6A. Final fund-raising figures for the gubernatorial race, filed after election day, totaled \$9.3 million. Romer raised \$3.47 million; Benson \$5.87 million. Benson provided more than \$3.45 million of his own money to his campaign. See Jennifer Gavin, "Governor-race donations hit \$9.3 million," Denver Post, 9 December 1994, 6B.