

Let Freedom Ring!

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Republicans—The Other Big Government Party

A colossal myth is circulating America: the myth that the Republican Party stands for smaller government, less taxation, more responsibility, and more freedom. It just isn't so.

The Republican Party is filled with people who honestly do want to end the domineering size and scope of government. The small group of leftover Goldwater Republicans in the Republican Party should abandon the party because the party abandoned them. There is an alternative - the Libertarian Party.

From the Republican National Platform (2000), we read that "Since the election of 1860, the Republican Party has had a special calling -- to advance the founding principles of freedom and limited government and the dignity and worth of every individual." and the Republican Party "commits to saving and strengthening Social Security." Social Security, a program which is the

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A New Strategy: Libertarian Charity

On February 10-11, the Libertarian National Committee's Strategic Planning Team (SPT) will be meeting in Indianapolis to try to forge a consensus strategy for the future of the party. I'm sure that all sorts of issues will be raised there about what the party should do, such as who to recruit, how to raise money, and where to run candidates. I suspect that one of the most important issues relating to the future of the party will be given cursory attention: our public image. This is too bad, because I have come to the view that one of the greatest stumbling blocks to our future growth is negative public perception: liberals see us as "grinches", and conservatives think of us as "libertines".

What to do? I think it is time for a bold, new undertaking: Libertarian Charities. If we could build a new public charity vehicle whose ultimate goal would be, not merely the supplementation of government assistance, such as that provided by the United Way, but the actual replacement of government assistance with voluntary aid, the public perception of our intentions would be radically

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What's In a Name?

Editor:

The Spanish name of the Libertarian Party is "Partido Libertario". It appears in Spanish language web sites, it appears in literature published by the National Libertarian Party, and the name is used for the Libertarian Party in some Latin American countries. [ED: In one of those countries, a Libertarian sits in the Federal Congress.] The Spanish version of the Voter Registration form for Massachusetts uses the title 'Liberal' to refer to the Libertarian Party. This name would be like the Liberal Parties in Canada (400 interned without warrants during the October Crisis) or Britain.

I wrote the Secretary of the Commonwealth about this, in Spanish. I presumed that the Office of the Secretary spoke Spanish, to judge from literature, ballots,...The office returned my letter, marked 'not in English', asking me to explain to them what the letter said. Apparently the Office of the Secretary is the only place in the state where one cannot find someone who reads Span-

Activism, Please!

It is not "activists" vs. "membership". Membership is an arbitrary term used for someone who supports what you are doing, and in the case of the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party, sends a check each year for a minimum of \$25 or more.

When you recruit real activists, you have local people who are running real campaigns. There is nothing like that to gain real political support. I saw this first hand in my county commissioner race. My best supporters were not Libertarians, who did not have time to get off their butts in most cases, but friends and acquaintances I met on the campaign trail who believed in what I stood for.

Most of them are *still* not members, but I can *still* call upon them at any time to help me politically.

Then I have other people who sent me checks for \$100 or more who were *not* members, and are *still* not members, and probably never will be. But they knew me and wanted to support me.

That is all you need to win. Support. And people willing to put up signs, help with your web page, work the polls, etc.

My campaign put the LP on the map. Not Harry

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core of the American welfare state, will be preserved under the Republicans. In their platform, the Republican Party "commits to rebuilding the American military and returning to a foreign policy of strength and purpose" Strengthening our more than \$350 billion dollar a year military budget? Sending more troops overseas to fight other country's wars? The last Republican President who cut the size and scope of government was "Silent Cal" Coolidge. His hands-off philosophy is nowhere to be seen in mainstream politics. "It is much more important to kill bad bills than to pass good ones," said Coolidge. In every session of Congress, more and more bills are proposed and approved by Republicans. Coolidge also said, "Every dollar that we carelessly waste means their lives will be that much more meager." Yet Republican politicians voted to approve the Ford, Reagan, and Bush budgets, which were large year after year.

Ronald Reagan never cut the size of government. Government grew by two-thirds during the Reagan era. Reagan did cut taxes. He never solved a single problem because he didn't cut the size of government. He never cut a single government agency or program. He never abolished the Department of Education as he planned in 1980. Government grew bigger, more expensive, more intrusive, and more oppressive.

Government grew under Richard Nixon with his affirmative action programs and his Environmental Protection Agency. Government grew under Gerald Ford. Government grew under Ronald Reagan. Government grew under George Bush (Sr.). Government will grow under George W. Bush. Why will government grow under the Bush administration? Because Republican politicians continually sell out freedom and responsibility to do what their moral standards tell them is best for the "general welfare" of the people.

The Clinton era provided a prime opportunity for Republicans to grow their party because for eight years Bill Clinton was to blame for helping the government grow in size. Yet the Congress was entirely Republican. No government size cuts were passed. No tax cuts were instituted. The scapegoat of the Republican Party was Bill Clinton himself. Clinton gave Republican politicians the chance to tell their constituents that they accomplished nothing while they controlled Congress because of Clinton.

Left-wing politicians take away your liberty in the name of children and fighting poverty, while right-wing politicians do it in the name of family values and fighting drugs. Either way government gets bigger and you become less free.

Which brings us to our next point: force. Republican politicians believe it is moral to force Americans to pay for the death and destruction of the people of Yugoslavia. Republican politicians believe it is moral to fight the War on Drugs and take special interest money from tobacco companies and oil companies. Republican politicians agree it is moral to force a woman to have a baby even if she doesn't have the economic or social capacity to raise that baby.

The Republican Party says it stands for smaller government, yet its politicians are the primary vehicles behind the racist, oppressive, tyrannical War on Drugs.

If you voted for George W. Bush because you couldn't stand Al Gore, or just wanted to stop the Clinton era, you will get what you deserve. If you want someone who will make the govern-

altered. Our "positives", as they say, would skyrocket. The other guys would have to imitate us (a good result of competition), or be perceived as the resisters of improvement.

How to do this? It would not be appropriate for the party itself to build such an organization, but leaders of the party should participate in it to provide leadership in accordance with voluntarist principles. This new organization could thus be broader than the party itself, and so provide for sources of support not now available to us. These new supporters of a "practical" kind of libertarianism could then become the base of an expanded membership, once they see the successful application of libertarian principles.

In ancient Rome, the patricians and plebians erected a Temple of Concord to symbolize the mitigation of age-old class warfare achieved through a power-sharing arrangement. To symbolize like-wise the social peace that libertarianism could achieve through voluntary action, I hereby propose the founding of the Concordian Society, dedicated to voluntary social action. What better way to set the stage for public policy in the new mille-

Browne's millions spent. That had zippo effect.

Focusing on anonymous membership is *not* the same as support. Campaigns need support, and that is largely dependent upon the candidate.

It is just not true that if we have activists and no *members* our activists will not have the resources to do anything. Activists raise money out of their activism.

Candidates spend lots of time raising money. Local political committees would be doing constant fundraising, if you are that organized. If not, it is only the campaigns that require money. There is nothing else for your local organization to do, except voter reg drives, which take time, but little if any money.

Either we are cultivating viable candidates, or nothing else matters. You cultivate viable candidates out of people in your community who are known and/or are willing to do what it takes to *get* known.

There is no value in national membership drives, and little value in state membership drives, because they are disconnected from what is going on locally.

All Politics is Local

...Lois Kaneshiki

Where Your Money Went

In December, say the FEC filings, the LPMA joined the ranks of state parties with someone on the payroll, at least at the level of covering health insurance.

Our Web Pages

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<http://www.cmlc.org>

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