

LIBERTARIAN radical



PARTY caucus

WHAT IS THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY?

The Libertarian Party is a national political party, with affiliates in most states, committed to a program of holding, or rolling back, the power, wealth, and function of the American State. It was formed in 1972, running a Presidential slate which won one electoral vote.

DON'T WE NEED THE STATE?

In general, the Libertarian Party's literature adequately answers this question - no, we do not. However, the literature is not always consistent, and often "moderates" its demands for political expediency and in order not to antagonize those supporters who believe in a (weaker) State. Clearly, at some point the State will be shrunk below the level the "minimum government" or "minarchist" majority seeks.

Unless the Party is radicalized, the Party will either defend the status quo or actually advocate a reactionary increase in State power. Inconsistency in principle will lead to inconsistency in action.

THAT IS IN THE LONG RUN. WHAT ABOUT ISSUES HERE AND NOW?

The Libertarian Party at present advocates a State monopoly army and foreign alliances to defend the U. S. Fully consistent libertarians - "radical libertarians" - are isolationists, opposing any entanglements with other States, any imperialism, and any military action unless outright invasion occurs.

Support of an "adequate" Defence Complex has created the Corporate-Military interface so inimical to the Free Market, an interface which has ballooned in a few decades into the monster the U. S. possesses today.

The Party supports a decrease in taxation but fails to assert that taxation is theft. Thus, the 1972 Presidential candidate can speak of "repaying the Government debt" - through

further theft! Radical libertarians push for abolition of taxes, not merely relief, and repudiate any "debt" which is involuntarily incurred on their behalf to finance the thieving State.

Most of the other Statist positions in the Libertarian Party stem from the archist defence and taxation positions.

SO THE PARTY'S PROBLEM IS INCONSISTENCY IN POSITIONS?

Not at all. As long as everyone is aware that the label "libertarian" is differently understood and used by differing groups, an alliance of such elements to gain their common ground is in the interests of both. A reason that this division has not been made clear is a by-product of the real problem of the Libertarian Party - it has the structure of a Political Party.

ISN'T A POLITICAL PARTY THE PROPER, MOST EFFICIENT TOOL FOR POLITICAL CHANGE?

No. Historically, libertarians have abhorred any "political" action in the sense of using electoral machinery of the State. Political Parties are recognized by "political scientists" as part of the governmental machinery, i.e., they are part of the State apparatus. They must conform to the State's requirements to work effectively. Parties do not operate on a market basis, with voluntary exchanges, but on quasi-state basis. Unlike the State, they do depend on "contributions" rather than outright taxation (although contributions are often made for political favors). But the money is not allocated on the basis of the contributor's individual demand but on the basis of either "majority vote" or Executive fiat. In a free society, the individual could create a market alternative to a service he found deficient; i. e., compete. To compete with the Libertarian Party would destroy both Party and competition, so the individual either must go along with the erring collective, or quit the Party route. Of course, the arbitrary control of the Executive is a problem

infecting all non-totalitarian Parties, and the LP is no exception.

WHERE DOES THE RADICAL CAUCUS COME IN?

Our program is primarily education of the people attracted into the Libertarian Party by its libertarian image. We expose them to the consistent philosophy in literature and person contact, but most effectively in clashes with the Partyarchy - the Ruling Clique of the party. Some people see the LP as a new route to power - after all, the raison d'être of a political party is to take power. These are the radical caucuses natural opponents. Others flock around them convinced that "effectiveness" requires central control, party lines, free-flowing treasuries, and so on - confusing effectiveness of being a political (statist) instrument with being a libertarian (anti-statist) instrument. Besides the power-seekers and the politically naive, there exist a group which actually understand this analysis, but support the Party structure because "there's nothing better" or "we must be realistic". This group is the greatest threat to libertarianism because of their claim of a gap between libertarian theory and practice. If true, the claim would destroy libertarianism because of its demand for full consistency both internally and with reality as its major premise. Needless to say, radical libertarians deny any such theory-practice dichotomy.

These elements support a Party for archy, and an archist-organized Party - they are the Partyarchy.

WHAT IS THE RADICAL CAUCUS?

Radical libertarians are allying to assist each other in activities within the LP in providing literature, position papers, speakers, newsletters, seconding motions, nominating slates of delegates and officers to bring to the membership's attention at Conventions and local meetings the inadequacy of "LPism" and the injustice of its bureaucracy - the Partyarchy. The radical caucus will be in the forefront of the battle for Party reforms of the day and for the building of hard-core activists for the long struggle against the State.

The Partyarchy will feel more threatened as we are more effective, so discrimination and purges will become more common. Rather than falter, we shall utilize their oppression as ammunition against them. Can libertarianism, even to the greenest rank-and-file, ever mean silencing dissent? Consistent and hard-core, we shall free the Party, the society, and ourselves.

HOW CAN I JOIN?

Get radicalized and get the issues that concern your local Party group most. Find irritating rules, unfair procedure, authoritarian officers, kick-backs and skimming, protected incompetents, national office meddling, and/or "minarchist" planks in your candidates' campaign. Publicize your issue in the Party newsletter (if you have access) or in a pamphlet of your own. Recruit concerned Party members to combat these evils to save the "image" of Liberty's "spokesmen". By working with you, they will tend to acquire your more consistent outlook, especially as you are so effective in debates. Contact other radicals at your State convention, and the address below for national co-ordination for the radical caucus national Convention effort.

Radical libertarians need no officers, treasury, or official spokesmen, so the radical caucus will have none. Anyone can claim to be in the LPrc; let their actions prove their claim! Don't ask what the radical caucus will provide you. YOU are the radical caucus - provide it! Pamphlets like these should be reprinted, not ordered! Others available are TAXATION IS THEFT!, and ISOLATIONISM, not IMPERIALISM, both excellent for demonstrations as well. Think, act, and educate now for Freedom In Our Time - FIOT!

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