

The R3VOLUTION isn't all just about Ron Paul anymore ...

By Ed Vallejo

I loathe politics.

I always have. In over 40 years of living on planet Earth, I never saw a politician that I felt was a good choice to lead the country of my birth, and because of this, never voted in a presidential election. Little did I know that my life was to take a radical turn in 2004.

I was quite familiar with Michael Badnarik from his Course on the United States Constitution he had been teaching, and knew him to be a good man. Someone I would take orders from as Commander-in-Chief without hesitation, a man I could fully trust. When I saw him get the Presidential

Nomination, I promptly went out and registered to vote and joined the Libertarian Party here in Arizona, where I actively campaigned for this excellent individual.

I learned a lot in that election cycle about how 'the game' is played – from a third party perspective. Main point being – the more truth a candidate speaks, the further away from earshot of The People that candidate is held. I saw this idea taken to the extreme point that Michael got arrested trying to gain access to a debate of Presidential Candidates! Such foul play I somewhat expected, but I was surprised at the degree to which it was taken.

By the time the next election cycle began in early 2007, I was not only a little wiser, I had 'attended' my way up the Libertarian Ladder to become Precinct Committeeman (elected by one vote – mine!), State Committeeman,

Assistant State Secretary, and Chairman of the Platform Committee. I had met some very good people along the way, and I was trying to make a difference in the world through my commitments. Then came Ron Paul.

I was somewhat aware of Dr. Paul from his 1988 Libertarian run for President. When I heard of the exploratory committee to draft Ron as a Republican contender, I did a short bit of research and found him to be every bit as principled and honest a man as Badnarik, and kept my eyes open. When I saw the Ron Paul for President – Phoenix Meetup Group created I joined it, and shortly after, Ron was in the race. It wasn't long before I found myself as Organizer of this group due to my ardency of 'taking action'.

That was a year ago. I could tell stories for hours on what has transpired in that twelve month period, but

it all boils down to what I learned in the last cycle was not only true for third party candidates, but ALL candidates; the more truth a candidate speaks, the further away from earshot of The People that candidate is held, and this time it couldn't be more obvious. The biggest difference this time was that the 'powers that be' didn't fully anticipate the impact of Ron getting on Prime Time – even if only a few times – and telling the People the TRUTH about the status of our Beloved America, and how we have been nose-dived into the dirt by corrupt empire-building politicians freely acting outside of the confines of the Constitution. By the time the Media lid was clamped down tight – TOO LATE – the cat was out of the bag, and a R3VOLUTION had begun!

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"Definition of Insanity"

By Howard Blitz, President,
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A Liberty Moment

It has been said that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. It appears American government officials are insane. They truly believe continuing and increasing the amount of control government authorities have over the American economic system will some how create economic stability and help all Americans become successful in their economic lives.

History and current events, though, prove otherwise. America never experienced a widespread economic depression until the Federal Reserve System existed. It was in fact the interference and the control of the supply of money by the Federal Reserve System that caused the great depression of the 1930's.

Now Henry Paulson, Secretary of the Treasury, along with the rest of the republican administration wants to give the Federal Reserve System even more power to dictate to banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions on how to run their businesses creating even more instability in the already topsy-turvy economic environment individuals must exist.

Mr. Paulson stated in his remarks on Monday, "Government has the responsibility to make sure our financial system is regulated effectively." Nowhere in the United States Constitution does it state that government has that responsibility. The closest one gets is the responsibility of government to coin money and regulate the value thereof. However, that means government is to just coin the money and initially set the relationship between a dollar and an ounce of gold and silver, the commodities that are money.

The Federal Reserve System is

not even the government, though. It is a private bank created by congress to essentially print money when money is needed. The Federal Reserve System has done more harm and created more economic instability than any institution created. To give it more regulatory power is insane. It is like bleeding people to get rid of their disease.

Because the treasury secretary and other government officials are asking for more control of the economy, they necessarily must have more information about what individuals do in their economic lives such as when and where individuals make deposits and withdrawals and with whom they do business. The regulatory blueprint outlined by the republican administration through Secretary Paulson necessitates more information gathering and more imposition on the lives of individuals, making it tougher for banks and other financial institutions to do business and complicating the lives of all individuals. In other words the end result is less free-

dom and individual liberty.

Americans, though, cannot look to democrats for less regulation as they accuse the republicans for not doing enough.

According to Mr. Paulson state based regulations is now outmoded. True enough. State government is not be involved in regulating the economic activity of free individuals as well. However, that is not what is being advocated.

Republicans and democrats alike now propose to have the federal government take over control of the American economy for which the state was responsible, which is also truly insane. There is no room for government control in a truly free market economy.

The treasury secretary also stated another truth that in the private sector if institutions do not change they become obsolete. However, private

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Hit The Hot Buttons

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Surveillance is another issue custom-made for libertarians. The Bush administration may have decided even before 9/11 that the Fourth Amendment prohibition of warrantless and unreasonable searches did not apply to good guys like themselves. Denouncing the administration's violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, its roundup of Americans' email, and its gradual building of a Total Information Awareness regime could especially energize younger, tech-savvy voters.



Most Americans now recognize that the Bush administration deceived

the nation into war with Iraq. Discontent with lying politicians could be a gusher for libertarian causes. It is not necessary for libertarian candidates to promise honest government. Instead, they can stress that it is far easier to reduce politicians' power than to raise their characters. If we cannot have honest politicians, at least we can have rulers with fewer levers to destroy private lives and livelihoods. If we cannot have honest elected officials, at least we can have less dangerous liars.

Libertarians must also raise the question of whether America is becoming an elective dictatorship. The Bush administration has trampled the Constitution time and again, and the Democrats have usually done little except pout and whine in response. There is far more fear of dictatorship in this country today than there was seven years ago. Libertarians can tap into those concerns to help people recognize that merely changing the name

of the party controlling the White House does little or nothing to safeguard their rights.

Libertarians can help Americans recognize that voting is not enough. Democracy is not failsafe. Democracy is not a penicillin that cures all politically transmitted diseases. It is good for some things—especially for peacefully removing bad rulers. But the ability to remove bad rulers provides no assurance that good rulers will take their place

Modern democracy is far more effective at unleashing government than at protecting individuals. The Founding Fathers believed that governments were created to secure rights. Subsequent generations of politicians have disparaged such a constrained vision of their own prerogatives. Yet, regardless of how often popularly elected governments trample people's rights and liberties, many people continue to equate democracy

with freedom.

Libertarians should call Americans to a higher grade of patriotism. It is not patriotic to ignore violations of the Constitution. It is not patriotic to "look the other way" when politicians ravage rights. It is not patriotic to pretend that politicians are entitled to all the power they can grab, at least until they get impeached or indicted. It is not patriotic to give the benefit of the doubt to people trying to shackle you.

The American political system has lost much of its legitimacy in recent years. Libertarians have a good opportunity to exploit that decline to awaken people to their right to freedom.

James Bovard is the author of Attention Deficit Democracy (Palgrave, 2006), Terrorism and Tyranny (Palgrave, 2003), and Lost Rights (St. Martin's, 1994). Copyright © 2008 by James Bovard.