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... ears of millions of Americans is moving to the streets, and I am uniquely qualified and motivated to put the Libertarian Party in a very influential position so that from the coming chaos we can expect a rebirth of American liberty. As the new Chairman of the Libertarian Party of the United States of America, I fully expect Lady Liberty's Torch to produce a Freedom's Phoenix.

I chose the theme of my Chair campaign to be the Libertarian Party of the United States' "Statement of Principle". Since the beginning of the party it has remained, "We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual". This Mission Statement was well understood by activists who were proud to refer to themselves as libertarians.

At the time of the creation of the Libertarian Party, it was easy to understand the reasoning for such a statement in the face of the Nixon administration and the Vietnam War. After the past two Bush administrations, it seems more like an act of clairvoyance.

"We, the members of the Libertarian Party,..." seems obvious. This makes clear that individuals have banded together to make use of the peaceful political process to do something.

"...challenge the cult..." is just as clear. Oppose/confront a group that adores/supports something. And 'that something' is the ..."omnipotent state". An all powerful, all knowing, government.

The mission statement goes on to make clear that the Libertarian Party was created not only to oppose those with a collective adoration of an all

powerful and all knowing government, but to "defend the rights of the individual" against this "omnipotent state". The Libertarian Party's Mission Statement goes on to define individual rights and our opposition to government's abuses of them. But nowhere does it dictate how this is to be done. And to make sure that this Mission Statement could not be changed for light and transient causes, it requires a 7/8 majority vote at a Libertarian National Convention.

The "injection of the libertarian infection into the bone marrow of American politics (for which there is no cure)" is extremely powerful. The recent r3VOLution has been a very good example.

Over the past year, I have traveled coast-to-coast many times, helping other libertarians and freedom supporting individuals in support of the libertarian philosophy behind the r3VOLution, but I was very concerned by official Libertarian Party communications in support of another party's candidate with little attention to the libertarian philosophy behind his popularity. Support for Congressman Ron Paul's clear opposition to the Federal Reserve, the War in Iraq, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Omnipotent Surveillance State (in that order) was obvious to the thousands attending any of the events. Yes, #1 was the Federal Reserve (thank you Aaron Russo). I am certain this observation will be confirmed by many libertarians at the Denver LP convention.

Only 6 months before the r3VOLution took the country by storm, the very issues that were its backbone had been abandoned by the LPUS at the National Convention of 2006.

The internal LP debate over what the specific function of the LP should be has been raging for at least the 15 years that I have been a libertarian activist. Efforts to bypass the desires

of Libertarians in convention via an LNC vote or a well timed parliamentary procedure have become almost expected. But, individuals with the desire to use the political process to achieve specific goals not addressed in the Mission Statement of the LPUS have gone too far, and principled libertarians are being compelled to direct their attention to the internal issues of the LPUS.

The LP News is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party. Page 2 of the LP News lists contact information for the LP. Immediately below that are these words:

The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party:

"To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

If this Mission Statement could be found anywhere in the official documents of the LP, I might be more compelled to fully examine how different this statement is in philosophy and function from the true Mission Statement. But, in brief, proclaims that Libertarians have abandoned the idea of opposing omnipotent power in favor of getting hold of it.

The most damaging aspect of this issue is that the Libertarian Party is committing fraud, plain and simple. I can't imagine how you could convince the ultimate judge (the general public) that the "Party of Principle" isn't being fraudulent with this blatant misrepresentation. Any success we may experience in the political process at a national level would be lost in a moment with a single featured segment on any number of national media programs. A public relations fi-

asco from which, I fear, the LP would never fully recover.

I hope many are asking how this could have happened. Many of you may have reacted with colorful language as I did. But I hope that you will direct your energy in helping me to make it clear that we do not support the direction the Libertarian Party of the United States has taken.

The original purpose for the creation of the Libertarian Party has never been more pertinent than it is right now. The r3VOLution is already well under way and if the LPUS were to aggressively challenge the Bad Guys and defend the Good Guys, I guarantee that we'd have a great deal more fun and would enjoy tremendous support.

Ernest Hancock is campaigning to be the National Chair of the Libertarian Party of the US. An unedited version of this essay may be viewed online, the entry dated April 8th:

www.ernesthancock.org/Ernies-Blog.htm

REVOLUTION**Taxation with Representation Is Still Tyranny***By Mary Ruwart*

"Nothing is certain but death and taxes."

Conventional wisdom puts the so-called "necessary evil" of taxation on par with death—inevitable, unavoidable, the way the world works. Our society seems to believe that taxation is indispensable to civilization. Our ancestors once believed the same thing about slavery.

Today, we know better. Slavery is not only unnecessary to civilization, but hinders its development. What we call "evil" has a way of doing that.

One day, the "necessary evil" of taxation will be recognized for what libertarians know it to be: legalized theft, a hindrance to civilization, prosperity, harmony, and happiness.

We've been so conditioned to ac-

cept taxation, that we often forget it's an "evil." Yet if we closely examine the process of taxation, we find it looks a lot like stealing.

Imagine, for example, that we wanted to have a new neighborhood park. We could get together with other neighbors who wanted the same thing and raise the necessary funds. We could even hire a manager to do this if we didn't want to.

If some of our neighbors didn't want to contribute, they wouldn't have to. If they changed their mind later, however, they might have to pay an extra entry fee. Everyone would be free to choose whether or not they wanted to help create a park.

However, we usually prefer not to honor our neighbor's choice. If we are part of a majority that wants the park, we vote to impose a tax on all of our neighbors, even those who don't want a park or wouldn't use one. The majority forces the minority to its will. The minority is no longer free to choose.

If one of our neighbors refuses to pay the park tax, he or she will be

forced—at gunpoint, if necessary—to do so. For example, if the new tax is a property tax, a lien will be placed on the dissenting have harmed no one. Their only crime is that they didn't agree with the majority about how their hard-earned money should be spent.

Most of the time, our dissenting neighbors will pay the tax before they are forced to do so at gunpoint. Eventually, they will retaliate in kind by becoming part of a majority that opposes what we might prefer. For example, people who don't want a park may want a library instead. They will vote to force us to pay a library tax, even though we buy our reading material at a bookstore rather than patronize a library.

With taxation, we take turns being minorities and majorities, victims and aggressors. We become irate and belligerent as the stakes escalate, reminiscent of the famous Hatfield and McCoy feud.

You can see this interplay in the verbal venom used by the liberals and conservatives, as they decry the way

the other group wants to spend your hard-earned money. They never question whether or not your money should be forcibly taken from you in the first place. They clearly believe that it is their "divine right" to do so.

Libertarians believe that it is your divine right to spend your money as you wish. If you are smart enough to earn it, you are smart enough to spend it. Stealing from Peter to pay Paul is still stealing. Taxation is indeed an evil, an evil that tempts us to grab as much as we can from each other. Voting for a tax is a declaration of war on our neighbors and is eventually responded to in kind. No wonder we have so much strife in our fair land!

Not only is taxation "evil," it's unnecessary as well. When government provides a service, it costs us twice as much as a private firm would charge us (for examples, see my book, "Healing Our World," available as a bound book (2003 edition) or a free download (1992 edition) at

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