Terrorists Destroy World Trade Center

U.S. Launches Global War on Terrorism

Anthrax Strikes U.S. Capitol Hill

What's Next?

November 2001

Dear Libertarian:

Every day, tons of rubble are removed from the site of the destroyed World Trade Center.

Every day, bombs and missiles rain down on Afghanistan.

Every day, more Americans are exposed to Anthrax delivered via the mail.

The "perfect storm" has hit America.

If you saw the movie or read the book, the "Perfect Storm" occurred when three unrelated storm systems met over the North Atlantic. The combined force of these three storms unleashed a shattering cataclysm of crashing waves and hurricane-force winds.

It was "perfect" destruction. Nothing could survive that calamity.

So, too, have the savage terrorist attacks of September 11, and their aftermath, unleashed a potential "perfect storm" on American politics.

As Libertarians, we support:

- ✔ A non-interventionist foreign policy.
- ✔ A free market economy.
- ✔ Robust civil liberties.
- ✔ Taxes as low as we can make them.
- ✔ Limited government. However . . .

Every one of those Libertarian principles is under serious, immediate threat because of the terrorist attacks.

We face the prospect of:

- ✔ A nation at endless war.
- ✔ Greater federal control over the economy.
- ✔ Restricted civil liberties.
- ✔ Higher taxes.
- ✔ Ever-expanding government.

In short, we face the increased peril of losing EVERYTHING the Libertarian Party has worked to preserve for 30 years.

In this letter, I'll explain the challenge this "storm" presents for Libertarians.

Before I do, however, I want to say something about the terrorist attack.

The Libertarian Party condemned it in the strongest terms. We called it "vicious and barbaric." We noted: "There is no excuse for such savage acts. No legitimate political or religious ideology can justify the murder of thousands of innocent people."

> **Like every American, we grieve for the families of those who were murdered.** We said: "We stand with them in mourning the loss of friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, loved ones, and fellow citizens."

Yes, we are Libertarians. But we are human beings first.

We especially grieve for Libertarian Party member John Perry, an off-duty NYPD officer who gave his life on September 11th helping his fellow citizens escape from the World Trade Center. He volunteered to help in the rescue effort, and died a hero.

> We also stand tall as Americans. America has been attacked, and we are outraged.

We support our nation in this crisis, and support an "appropriate and measured" response to bring those terrorists to justice. Those murderous thugs should not be allowed to escape justice for the crimes they have committed.

A Voice of Caution

As a nation, we face the threat of more terrorism. It is a real, immediate, deadly danger. We understand that.

And every newspaper headline about the Anthrax bio-terrorism confirms that danger.

But we face another danger, too: That our government will not respond to the terrorist threat in a way that respects our proud American tradition of liberty. There's a danger that

politicians will act too hastily, and make tragic mistakes.

At a time like this, America needs a "voice of caution." Not a voice that hates America, or apologizes for terrorists. But a voice that loves our country — and wants to make sure it responds to terrorism in a way that honors what this nation stands for.

> To do that, we need to share some of our profound concerns.
> You probably have some of these concerns, too.

Let's start with the most serious: The military response.

An Endless War

President George W. Bush declared a "global war on terrorism." While the Libertarian Party has endorsed appropriate military action to bring to justice the terrorist murderers responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, what President Bush is planning appears to go far beyond that.

President Bush said the U.S. will not only target the terrorists responsible for the September 11 attack, but EVERY terrorist group with a "global reach." He said any nation that does not assist the United States will be considered an enemy.

- ✔ This is a blueprint for war against half the planet, since experts say that as many as 60 nations may harbor terrorists.
- ✔ It's a war against a hidden enemy, without a clear way to determine victory. (How will we be certain that EVERY terrorist has been apprehended or killed?)
- ✔ And it's a war that could go on for years. Government officials already hint that it could last two years, or five years, or longer.

There's even talk of putting a significant number of American ground troops in Afghanistan. A Soviet general who fought the Afghan rebels in the 1980s warned America that we face a "sea of bloodshed" if we venture into that brutal, mountainous land.

Now, decent Libertarians can disagree about the proper military response to the terrorist attack. But no Libertarian wants to hand our government a "blank check" to wage an endless war around the globe.

But that's where the country appears to be heading.

A Not-So-Free Market

Politicians have already turned on the federal spigot to aid the ailing airline industry. Shortly after the attack, the president signed a bill authorizing $5 billion in cash and $10 billion in loan guarantees to America's airlines.

- ✔ It was the first federal bailout since the S&L crisis in the 1980s. But it may not be the last.

Already, the travel industry — hotels, travel agents, rent-a-car companies, and so on — has

begun to ask for help. Like the airlines, they have been hammered by the slump in business and vacation travel.

> **Why stop there?** The insurance industry faces financial aftershocks from the attack. So does Boeing. So do other companies and industries.

Politicians stand ready — with our tax dollars — to "help" these industries. It's corporate welfare wrapped in the American flag. Where will it end?

And then there's the faltering economy. Many Democrats and Republicans say they support more federal spending to stimulate the economy. Huge numbers are being tossed around: $50 billion. $100 billion. How high will politicians go by the time they're done with their compromising, deal-making, and favor-swapping?

Assault on Civil Liberties

How were terrorists able to infiltrate America, set up dozens of secretive cells, get flight training, and commandeer four jets — all without being detected?

Was it because police, federal law enforcement, and even the military were busy monitoring and arresting 704,812 Americans on marijuana-related charges last year . . . instead of searching for murderous terrorists?

> **Not according to the Justice Department.** They say it was because the federal government doesn't have enough power to spy on Americans, detain people without charges, or seize property without a trial.

The Justice Department demanded that Congress pass new "anti-terrorism" bills to do all that — and more.

Congress happily complied. The House and Senate passed bills that allow an expansion of the FBI's Carnivore e-mail spying program, let police conduct sneak-and-peak searches of your home or office, enhance police wiretap authority, and even create a global version of the Know Your Customer bank spying scheme.

> The result is "**an enlargement of the Big Brother state**," said Robert Higgs, a senior fellow at the Independent Institute and author of the book, Crisis and Leviathan.

Only Big Brother can fight terrorists, politicians assure us.

By the time you read this letter, President Bush is expected to have signed that "Big Brother" anti-terrorism bill into law.

Higher Taxes?

How will the government pay for the new war against terrorism, corporate bailouts, added security, and increased surveillance?

There is no talk yet of raising federal taxes. But at the state level, you may not be so lucky.

The September 21 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* featured an article entitled: "**Attacks Raise Likelihood of Higher State Taxes.**"

> The economic downturn following the terrorist attack makes state governments "more likely to consider tax increases," said the newspaper.

This year, three states have already decided to raise revenue by ending tax credits, closing "loopholes," or imposing targeted new taxes. In Ohio, the Republican governor has proposed $465 million in tax increases. How many more governors will do likewise?

- ✔ On October 19, influential *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne, Jr. called for a new "emergency revenue-sharing" plan. He wants the federal government to send billions of dollars to the states to bail them out.

It's a welfare program for state governments — paid for by you, the taxpayer. Several economists have endorsed the idea. Will Congress follow?

Unlimited Government

"War is the health of the state," said Randolph Bourne in 1918.

Let's translate that into simple English: Government gets bigger when we're at war.

It's already happening.

- ✔ President Bush has issued a National Emergency Proclamation, which gave him the authority to call up military reserves. He also created a new cabinet-level department called the Office of Homeland Defense. There's talk that all airport security personnel may become federal employees.

And if you hoped this new war would divert attention from America's last "war" — the War on Drugs — think again.

- ✔ House Speaker Dennis Hastert formed a NEW task force to combat drug trafficking — which he described as the "financial engine that drives many terrorist organizations."

The War on Terrorism, meet the War on Drugs.

The Threat

The threat to America from this perfect political storm is clear: Every freedom we hold dear is in increased danger.

Even if our nation defeats terrorism — and every Libertarian fervently hopes we do — America could become a nation of greater global interventionism, more corporate welfare, diminished civil liberties, higher taxes, and unlimited government.

The Party Reacts

Here's what the Libertarian Party has done in the wake of the terrorist attacks . . .

Within 24 hours, we issued a somber and thoughtful statement from LP Chair Jim Lark. We expressed sorrow for the victims and families. We condemned the "vicious and barbaric" attack in clear, unambiguous language. We called for justice to be meted out to the terrorists.

We urged politicians NOT to restrict the civil liberties of Americans. And we called for a "thoughtful national discussion" about how a non-interventionist foreign policy could reduce the chance that terrorists will strike at America.

✔ We also issued an op-ed saluting the American heroes who stepped forward in this time of crisis. Sometimes, Libertarians can come across as negative, so we wanted to say how proud we were of the Americans who had given blood, money — and even their lives.

The following week, we joined a nationwide group — called the "In Defense of Freedom" coalition — to work against any new restrictions on civil liberties. We attended the press conference here in Washington, DC to network with the media.

It's been an uphill battle.

Our coalition managed to delay the anti-terrorism bills for several weeks, thanks to the civil liberties concerns we raised. The House even inserted a two-year "sunset" clause for some of the more alarming provisions.

However, at the last minute, the **Republican House leadership** — with a sneaky legislative sleight-of-hand — replaced the improved bill with a different one that reinstated almost every civil-liberties violation we were fighting against.

Regretfully, that's the bill President Bush is now expected to sign into law.

We also signed on to a letter to Congress (along with the American Civil Liberties Union and Gun Owners of America) opposing any "sneak-and-peak" provisions in the law. We'll keep working against such civil-liberties abuses — even if we lose the first round.

Media Counteroffensive

We also started ratcheting up our media effort. While careful not to come across as unpatriotic or eager to make cheap partisan points, we know there NEEDS to be a principled voice for freedom in this time of crisis.

So, we issued a series of press releases since the September 11 attack. As a result, more than 100 media calls streamed into the LP headquarters. We've fielded calls from the *Los Angeles Times,* the Gannett News Service, the *Washington Post,* and more.

✔ Our spokespeople have done 71 radio and TV interviews about the attack and civil liberties issues — dozens of them on booming 50,000-watt stations like KOA in Denver and WLAC in Nashville.

✔ And we've been invited onto so many syndicated shows — such as Ken Hamblin (115 stations), Blanquita Cullum (105 stations), and the Talk Radio

News Service (300 stations) — that our message has been broadcast on 2,442 stations since the attack.

We're also going after the politicians who violate our civil liberties.

On October 16, Press Secretary George Getz appeared on KFIV radio in Modesto, California to talk about the anti-terrorism bill. On the air with him: **Republican Congressman Richard Pombo**, who voted for the bill.

Host Dave Thomas asked the Congressman: "Will the bill really allow police to sneak into your home, search it, then notify you about it later?"

Pombo said, "Well, yes, I think so."

George Getz jumped in, noting that such a provision violates the Fourth Amendment: "Congressman, suppose that the next anti-terrorism bill includes a complete ban on guns. Would you vote for that as well?"

"Of course not!" Pombo retorted.

Getz said: "Congressman, you've admitted you would sacrifice your constituents' Fourth Amendment rights to combat terrorism. So why wouldn't you sacrifice their Second Amendment rights as well?"

"Um, well," Pombo stammered, "I . . . it's just that . . ."

A long silence ensued before the music chimed in for a commercial break.

Later, the host called George and said, "Pombo called me back after the show, and boy was he pissed! He said, 'You put me in a position where I was unprepared and very embarrassed.' "

And Thomas responded, "After voting for legislation like that, you ought to be embarrassed!"

Overall, our response to the terrorist attack has generated our biggest burst of media attention yet this year. And it shows no sign of slowing down. Except . . .

An Immediate Threat

There is a problem.

At a time when America MOST needs the calm, reasonable voice of the Libertarian Party . . . at a time when our freedoms are MOST in danger . . . we are suffering from an unexpected by-product of the terrorist attack . . .

In weeks following the initial attack, donations to the LP slowed to a trickle.

We weren't alone. Both the Republicans and Democrats put all fundraising on hold following the attack. They knew Americans weren't thinking about partisan politics; they were huddled around their televisions, watching in horror and sorrow.

Making a political contribution was the last thing on people's minds. And . . .

The same is true of Libertarians. September contributions plunged to 42% below average. It was our worst month for donations in over four years.

- ✔ Republicans and Democrats don't feel the squeeze like we do. They have millions of dollars in the bank, affluent corporate sponsors, and big donors who can write $100,000 checks at the drop of a top hat.

We don't. We're a small organization that relies 100% on the generosity of Libertarians like you. Your contributions fund our outreach efforts, allow us to send information to prospects, pay our staff and rent, support our candidates, and enable us to engage in media outreach.

Because of this shortfall, we may have to cut back, at a time when we should be redoubling our efforts.

Only the Libertarian Party

This lack of money couldn't come at a worse time.

America has never needed the Libertarian Party like it needs us now.

Who do you think will speak out against endless war, greater federal control of the economy, restricted civil liberties, higher taxes, and expanding government?

> **Not the Republicans and Democrats.** While I'm sure they're trying to do the right thing, they're basking in "bipartisanship." They're working together to make government bigger.

Not single-issue groups. Sure, the ACLU will oppose civil liberties violations, but not higher taxes. The National Taxpayer's Union will squawk about tax hikes, but doesn't comment on war. Beyond War will oppose military action, but has no official opinion about civil liberties.

- ✔ ONLY the Libertarian Party will make a principled argument for every aspect of limited government.
- ✔ ONLY the Libertarian Party has a "unified field theory" of liberty.
- ✔ ONLY the Libertarian Party will act as the "loyal opposition" to the big-government parties.

We're the Real Patriots

I want to make one point clear: Libertarians are as patriotic as the loudest flag-waver in Washington, DC.

But our patriotism manifests itself differently.

> We show our patriotism with our devotion to the precious freedoms our forefathers died to protect. We show our patriotism with a determination to help America live up to its noble heritage of liberty.

To act otherwise would be UN-patriotic. And that's why . . .

Now Is the Time

America NEEDS the Libertarian Party — now, more than ever. And we need your help to keep our pro-freedom voice loud and strong.

Could you spare $100? It would make such a big difference.

✔ Every press release costs several hundred dollars to fax to media outlets in every corner of the USA. At times like these, we should to be issuing more releases . . . doing more interviews . . . increasing public awareness of our Libertarian ideas.

If you've given $25 before, could you give $50 now? It's never been more crucial.

✔ The world has changed since September 11, and we must address that change. With terrorism, military policy, and civil liberties looming as the major issues of the day, we must immediately update our literature.

When people ask for Libertarian Party information, they demand to know where we stand on the issues that dominate the headlines. We've launched a crash program to revise our information package to answer those questions.

We need to get this updated package to the printer in just a few weeks, and print enough to keep the costs down. It's a major — crucial — investment. Your donation can make it happen.

Even $25, or $15, or $10 would help us interject more Libertarian ideas into the debate.

✔ In the last month, our pro-liberty op-eds reached over 120,000 readers — and uncounted thousands more on the popular AntiWar.com website.

You contribution will help us expand our op-ed program, and reach even more readers at more newspapers.

The Perfect Storm

I said it before: America faces the perfect storm.

And the Libertarian Party faces its own storm.

Your contribution, whether $250, or $100, or $50, or $25, or $15, will help us weather that storm — and keep pointing America towards the sunshine of freedom.

Thank you,

Steve Dasbach

Steve Dasbach,
Libertarian Party National Director

PS: News flash: As I write this letter, we're still tallying responses from our Strategic Plan survey. You may recall, we recently asked members which

of the six proposed strategic goals should be our #1 priority.

Based on preliminary numbers, the answer is clear: You want us to focus on Goal 5: "**Increase public awareness of, acceptance of, and support for Libertarian ideas.**"

The terrorism crisis — as tragic as it is — gives us a new opportunity to be heard. It gives us a chance to make voters aware of how Libertarian policies can protect their liberties, make America safer, and enrich their lives.

Your donation will sustain our efforts, and make our voice heard. Thank you.

PPS: September 11 and its aftermath may be the biggest challenge the Libertarian Party has ever faced.

It's also our best opportunity to shine — and proudly demonstrate that not even bloodthirsty terrorists can silence our clarion call for liberty.

America needs us now.

If we don't talk about limited government, who will?

If we don't talk about a non-interventionist foreign policy, who will?

If we don't talk about the importance of civil liberties now, who will?

America needs us. **We need you.** Thank you for your support.

EMERGENCY UPDATE:

Terrorism has -- again! -- had an unexpected impact on the LP office.

As I write this, we haven't received any incoming mail for two days. The anthrax outbreak that killed at least two Post Office workers in the Washington, DC area has closed the Brentwood Post Office facility.

> That's the main postal sorting facility for this section of Washington. It's been closed so medical experts can continue to test the building for the presence of the lethal anthrax spores.

There's no word from Post Office officials about how long that mail embargo will last. But for however long it does last, the LP has no contributions coming in -- again! Our limited cash reserves are quickly evaporating.

That's not our only concern, however. I just spent the last four days at home, suffering with a sore throat, coughing, and congestion. A cold? I sure hope so. Let me tell you: It's no fun being infected with what seems to be a common cold -- when all the TV stations are blaring the fact that the early symptoms of anthrax are exactly like . . . the common cold or flu.

> Realistically, I know the odds of contracting anthrax are remote -- even though our office is in the infection zone, and even though we get our mail from an infected Post Office facility. I'm feeling much better today. But I am concerned about our finances.

Again, I don't know how long the mail embargo will last. By the time you get this letter, the problem could be solved. On the other hand, there could be another anthrax outbreak at any time.

So, could I ask you for a favor? Could you make a contribution via our website: **www.LP.org**? That way, you bypass any potential mail blockage, and we can put your donation to work immediately to spread the Libertarian Party's message.

We've got a secure server, so your credit card number and personal information are 100% safe. Just click on the button on the home page marked "Donation." It would be so helpful.

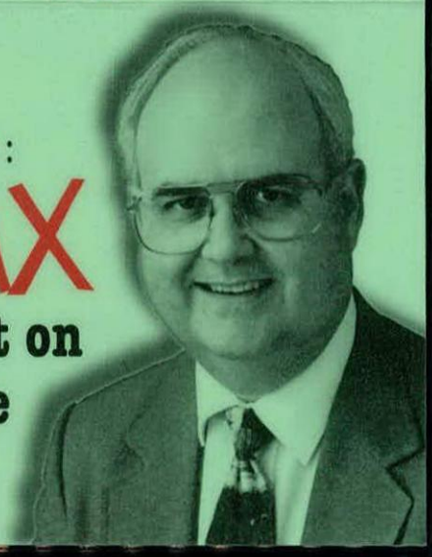
If you don't have easy access to the web -- or if you prefer sending your contribution by mail -- that's fine, too. I'm sure the mail embargo won't last too long, and we'll put your contribution to work the minute we receive it.

Again, thank you for your support in these trying times. *Steve*

EMERGENCY UPDATE:

ANTHRAX

Its unexpected impact on the National LP Office





Libertarian National Committee, Inc.
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037

Terrorists Destroy World Trade Center ◆ U.S. Launches Global War on Terrorism ◆ Anthrax Strikes Capitol Hill

What's Next?

AND WHAT WE MUST DO NOW.