

Finally: A truly effective strategy for winning liberty

Why becoming a Libertarian Party member may be the most effective way to regain America's freedom

Dear friend,

Recently, Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson wrote to me. He asked me to renew my membership in the Republican Party. I'd like to share the letter I sent in reply.

Dear Congressman Nicholson,

For my entire adult life I have:

- * Voted Republican,
- * Walked door-to-door for Republican candidates,
- * Donated the maximum amount of money possible to Republican candidates,
- * Worked at polling places for Republicans,
- * Ferried voters to the polls to cast Republican ballots,
- * Tried to recruit new Republicans from the ranks of Democrats and Independents, and . . .
- * Suffered the enmity of my friends for advocating a limited constitutional republic.

You can therefore imagine my elation at the election results of 1994!

Yet, here I am in May, 1997, a proud, new, card-carrying member of the Libertarian Party. I presume, therefore, that you will wish to withdraw my nomination as a sustaining member of the

RNC. Should you, for some inexplicable reason, choose not to withdraw my nomination, I nevertheless do not accept.

If you will take instruction from the defection of so long a loyal and energetic party member, then I am only too anxious to offer it. To wit,

- * I did not work to **save immoral Social Security and Medicare** programs, but to repeal them.
- * I did not contemplate a **rise in the minimum wage**, but its abolition.
- * I did not expect that the defeat of Clinton-care would be followed by Kennedy-Kassebaum and now Kennedy-Hatch.
- * I did not expect **the continued deployment of US troops overseas** following Cold War victory.
- * I did not expect the "end of welfare as we know it" to include continued **federal taxation to support welfare** as we know it now.
- * I did not anticipate that promised deregulation would place tobacco under the FDA.
- * I did not dream that the demise of politically correct speech would be succeeded by proposals to **cancel the Internet**.
- * I did not expect the **dismantling of corporate welfare to be blocked by Republicans**.
- * I did not think that the equal protection of the law meant that parents are more equal than the childless in structuring the tax code.
- * I did not consider that the arbitrary powers of the ATF, IRS, SBA, NEA, NLRB, FDA, Export/Import Bank, EEOC, and on and on would continue as if no change in legislative control had ever happened.

I am still amazed that **no shrinkage in the number of Cabinet departments** has occurred, and that the number and complexity of the forms I have to submit to the federal government in order to operate my small business has not decreased, but increased.

I had certainly hoped that the Republican majority would not

continue to permit the War on Drugs to justify assaults on liberty (RICO, asset forfeitures, forceful entry and destructive searches of property without compensation to innocent targets).

I do not understand why there is a War on Drugs in the first place (apart from educational and rehabilitational efforts which can all be done voluntarily), and particularly why this war should be a FEDERAL one.

I do not understand how it is that the agents of the federal government who caused the loss of innocent life at Ruby Ridge and Waco, not only were not prosecuted, and did not suffer the loss of employment and benefits, but were instead promoted, nor how the head of the department responsible for the mass murder of children could stand unimpeached.

I am dismayed that the group who rightly attacked liberal Democrats for forcing secular humanism down our throats should find no contradiction in **forcing fundamental Christianity down our throats**, regardless of its benefits when taken voluntarily. No one can prevent a person from praying to his God, short of killing him, and I have as yet had no report of a teacher taking this step.

And while homosexuality, prostitution, pornography, and other such activities, voluntarily engaged in by consenting adults, may offend the morals of some, or even many, they most certainly do not circumscribe the liberty of anyone.

I could continue in this vein, but I won't.

Now I come to the letter of nomination itself, wherein you list what you believe to be the most compelling reasons for concerted Republican action, and what do I find?

1. A complaint about Clinton/Gore scandals.

If you can find sufficient grounds for doing so, please impeach one or both of these scoundrels. If not, why not embrace enthusiastically the serious and pressing business of restoring our liberties?

2. Balancing the budget.

Excuse me, but news reports of how Republicans claim to have accomplished this do not bring comfort. The end of deficits as far as the eye can see will not occur without the accompaniment of real

spending reductions as far as the eye can see. And the absence of any such spending cuts will only mean that the monster state is simply frozen at its present freedom-crushing proportions.

3. Crime and drug abuse among our children.

I have read the U.S. Constitution many times, and more books on the Constitution than many Americans have read books, and nowhere do I find an enumerated power of the national government to concern itself with crime and drug use amongst our children, our adults, or anyone else.

Nor, while we're at it, with "improving our schools," helping "working and retired Americans struggling to make ends meet," helping parents defend their children against "television and the Internet," or helping us "prepare for retirement."

You have, it seems to me, been seduced by the enemy's propaganda. No, I do not think you are on the right track, notwithstanding the fact that I wish to arrive -- through unfettered personal efforts -- at some of your stated destinations.

I did not, after all, choose the Republican Party as my political vehicle simply to conserve fuel on the "Road to Serfdom."

That I want my voice to be heard in Washington is certain. I am convinced, however, that a higher decibel level will be registered by my departure to the Libertarians than by any size contribution I could make to the RNC.

If, in this conviction I am mistaken, then God help us all.

Sincerely, [signed] **David Shaffer**

\$5 billion more in government spending!

No sooner had I sent this letter than the Republican majority in Congress managed to negotiate a budget containing **\$5 billion more in government spending** than the liberal Democrat Bill Clinton had originally asked them for.

★ And now Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato is trying to make it *illegal* for banks to charge fees for ATM access, a **gross interference with the free market.**

And Majority leader Trent Lott is working to save spending for the Tennessee Valley

Authority — even though that agency has said *it doesn't want or need this funding*.

- ★ And this same so-called conservative leader has offered to ease our crushing tax burden and reduce our fear of the IRS, not by cutting taxes, but by renaming the IRS the **Taxpayer's Protection Agency**. George Orwell's newspeak is alive and well in the Republican Party!

Is the GOP now going to compete with the Democrats to see who can *expand* government the most, *violate* the Constitution the most, and *trample* the inalienable rights of the American people the most? If we judge them by their *actions*, then we **MUST CONCLUDE THAT THEY ARE!**

How else will we judge them?

And by what else would we judge them, if not by their actions! Will we judge them only by their meaningless promises? *I say no.*

The Republican Party may not be a party of principle, but I am a person of principle, and I will not lend my name or support to any organization that, on the broad range of issues, works against my principles.

- ★ I will not rationalize and grope for excuses for my former party. They must be held responsible for their actions, otherwise we can never expect them to change.
- ★ I will not remain a Republican simply because I have always been a Republican. **My sense of personal identity has *nothing* to do with party labels and *everything* to do with principles.**
- ★ Nor will I support the Republican Party out of concern that the Democrats are worse and must be kept out of office at all costs.

I tell you, **it no longer matters whether a Democrat or a Republican wins election**, because by the only measure that really matters — their actions — *they are one and the same*.

I thought the Republican label had value

Believe me, I know it's hard — I too thought of myself as a Republican. I thought that label had meaning and value. But a mere label can never be given greater weight than my principles. And I will not soil myself with allegiances that are unworthy of my ideals.

I urge *you* to judge the Republican Party by its *actions*, not by your own definition of

what it means to be a Republican. The people who run the GOP do not honor your definition of what that party should be about, and for you to continue supporting them in light of their actions would be to make **yourself responsible** for the wrongs they commit in *your* name.

★ **But I go still further.** I say that the greatest threat to individual liberty and personal responsibility is *not* the Democratic Party — because at least they are *honest* about their plundering ways.

It is the *Republicans*, because they claim to be what they are not. They operate under the cloak of a vicious disguise.

We must have an alternative to the Republican Party and we must have it *now*. We cannot wait. We cannot reform the GOP from within. We do not have time to cut through all the moral corruption that has led that party to its present state.

The GOP is a rigged game

The nomination of Bob Dole and the rise of Trent Lott should show us clearly that the GOP is a rigged game. You and I cannot change it, we can only remove our support and build something new, something clean, something *virtuous*.

★ **Look around: Who in the Republican Party today even talks about the overriding importance of individual freedom?**

Certainly we can thank **Phil Gramm** for fighting the Clinton health care plan, and **Steve Forbes** for talking about ending the IRS. But both were met with hostility from state Republican organizations, and with sporadic support from Republican voters. In the end, both lost out to Mr. Big-Government himself, Bob Dole.

If the GOP stood for freedom, Senator Gramm and Mr. Forbes should have had intense competition for the right to be the “candidate of liberty” — **but they were alone**, and both are close to Libertarian ideals *only* in comparison to the numerous other Republican contenders.

Does this fact *alone* not convince you that the GOP is not the natural home for any citizen who values his liberty?

★ **That is why I have joined the Libertarian Party.** Think of how much effort you have already spent, as did I, just trying to convince your fellow Republicans that freedom is a good idea. You will definitely not have this experience as a Libertarian.

Although I have yet to find a principle on which I disagree with the LP, you might.

But it's important to note that the points of contention amongst Libertarians are largely over the methods and the pace of restoring the great benefits of a limited Constitutional republic to all of America's citizens.

And with every passing day, as we hurtle closer to national bankruptcy, as our streets are filled with more and more crime, as our families and our national sense of personal responsibility decays, the Libertarian prescription, both in its scope and speed, becomes more and more compelling.

The ideals of the Founders

In the 1996 platform of the LP's 1996 presidential candidate, **Harry Browne**, we heard the ideals of America's founders gain new life.

We heard a candidate stand up and say . . .

- ★ That the federal government should be **cut back to only those functions authorized by the Constitution.**
- ★ That the oath to preserve, protect, and defend the United States Constitution should have *real* meaning, backed by action.
- ★ That such a course of action would allow us to not simply flatten the income tax, or replace it with a national sales tax, but to **eliminate the income tax entirely, replacing it with *nothing*.**

We heard that this would leave sufficient revenues from Constitutionally authorized tariffs and excise taxes to pay for the Constitutionally authorized functions of government, under the discipline of a balanced budget.

- ★ It would also free *hundreds of billions of dollars* for productive use by free enterprise and the free exercise of charity.

The fraudulent Social Security system

In Harry Browne we had the *only* presidential candidate in the race with the integrity to declare that the books of the fraudulent Social Security system must not be balanced on the backs of the next generation.

- ★ That instead we must sell off any assets owned by the federal government for which it has neither Constitutional need nor authority, and use those funds to buy private annuities for those dependent on Social Security.

And further, we must then **end the Social Security tax and the Social Security fraud forever**, so citizens can once again look to their own future needs in a productive way. That we cannot build a responsible society by placing responsibility

in the hands of the government. It must be returned to the people.

But the ultimate value of the Libertarian Party lies in the fact that I don't need to tell you where it stands on every issue, because that can be derived from understanding the principle from which all of its positions derive. Namely, . . .

That *you* own your own life. That you have an inalienable right to live your life as you see fit, provided you don't transgress on the equal right of others to do the same.

Life, liberty, and property

That the *only* just function of any government is to protect your right to life, liberty, and honestly acquired property, and that personal responsibility is impossible in the absence of individual freedom.

★ **That each person must be free to make his or her own choices,** and to reap the benefits or pay the consequences of those decisions personally, be they good or bad.

These are noble principles. And so I joined the *only* political party in America that's working to restore these principles to their rightful place in our public life.

★ And now I am working to recruit others, so that *millions* of voices can be raised in support of these ideas.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. We must not do nothing. But worse even than doing nothing would be for us to continue serving a bad cause because of outmoded allegiances.

Join with me. If every person who agreed with these principles joined in support of them, we would be unstoppable.

Reason to hurry

There is no reason to wait. There is every reason to hurry. And you will not be alone. Day by day more and more opinion leaders are coming to see the wisdom of the Libertarian way.

"Libertarianism . . . is the most important message of our age."

— James Glassman, syndicated columnist

"The party to watch in the 21st century may well turn out to be the Libertarians."

— David Broder, *The Washington Post*

"What liberalism was to the 60's and conservatism was to the 80's, libertarianism may be to the youth of the 1990's — the de facto philosophy of a generation."

— *USA Today*

"... the Libertarians are right about so many things. I think their day is coming."

— Rush Limbaugh

"Political libertarianism is the cutting-edge politics of the time."

— *The Village Voice*

"Libertarians have all the good ideas."

— Hugh Downs, ABC News

We can do it. But only through the strength that comes from numbers. The Libertarian Party has set the goal of recruiting enough members to catch the Democrats and Republicans by the end of the 2000 campaign. I think they can do it. *But we need your help.*

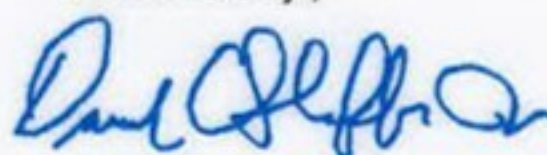
Do you agree with Libertarian principles?

Then join us. I feel confident that we can win, because the transgressions of the Democrats and the betrayals of the Republicans make it inevitable that the American people will eventually flee from those parties. **The only question is, will they — will you — act in time to make a difference?**

I urge you to write a check for \$25, or more, and return it to the Libertarian Party in the enclosed envelope. Support the *only* party in America that agrees with you in principle, and on *most* of the issues *most* of the time.

Make your actions worthy of your principles. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David Shaffer

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

PS: Are you *glad* the United States of America exists? *I am.*

Are you glad that the Founders risked their lives and fortunes to rebel against the British Empire? *I am.*

Do you think the list of abuses in the Declaration of Independence were a

just and sufficient cause for the American Revolution? *I do.*

Isn't it obvious that many of these same abuses are being committed by our own government today? *It's obvious to me.*

And isn't it equally clear that these modern day violations are far *worse* than those against which the Founders rebelled? I don't think there can be any doubt about this — our government today is far worse than the British Empire was then. *Far, far worse.*

So what's wrong with us? Why aren't we doing as the Founders did?

Yes, I know, the Founders didn't fight with the ballot, but with the bullet, but we can still defend ourselves through peaceful means, while they could not.

There is only *one* peaceful means open to all of us who simply want to enjoy the original guarantees of our Constitution: **Combine forces as a cohesive political unit and take back our government at the ballot box.**

If it was right then, isn't it right now? Please, I urge you — follow in the footsteps of the Founders — join the Libertarian Party.

PPS: Joining the Libertarian Party costs little when compared with what the Founders risked. You aren't committing your life to this, anymore than I committed my life to the Republican Party. You are merely taking a stand right here and right now, which you can change at any time, should some superior party or method present itself.

What you do at the ballot box is known only to you. But the party with which you choose to associate via your membership **should embody those ideals you hold most dear.** Therefore, choose party membership which states unequivocally . . .

“I cherish freedom above all else.”

Join the Libertarian Party.

I Want My Actions to be
Worthy of My Principles



The Power of
One Signature

You are not alone!

Thinking of joining?

Here's a sampling of talk show hosts, editors, and columnists who already made that decision. Isn't it time you put the power of one signature — your signature on our membership form — to work for liberty, too?

Zoh Hieronimus

Radio Talk Show Host

WCBM AM-680, Baltimore, Maryland

Libertarian Party Member

"I was a registered Democrat who voted Republican [but] no longer felt that either party or its leadership had a grasp of lawful governance. I hope that many of you will realize as I have that the Libertarian Party is *the* third party — that [joining the party] is an important and tangible way for us to reclaim our republic."

David L. Felts

Managing Editor

The Centralia Sentinel, Centralia, Illinois

Libertarian Party Member

"The Democrats act like Mama and promise to take care of us. The Republicans act like Daddy and tell us to behave ourselves. But neither party wants to see any serious reduction in the government. They *are* the government. Today, the Libertarian Party is the *only* group that values free thinking, responsibility and, most of all, liberty."

Rick Minyard

Radio Talk Show Host

KFIV AM-1360, Modesto, California

Registered Libertarian

"As far as I can tell, the party that represents my views on the majority of the issues is the Libertarian Party. I want less government to mean *less* government — not just slowing its growth."

Jeanna R. Smith

Editor, *The Journal*, Berlin, New Jersey

Libertarian Party Member

"I began listening to and reading about Libertarianism. So, I've become a card-carrying member. I've paid my dues and vowed to get out at election time and work for more Libertarians to win seats in Congress and the state legislature."

Tom J. Edwards

Political Columnist

The Dearborn Times-Herald, Michigan

Libertarian Party Member

"I finally made a leap of faith! I've joined the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party platform is one of the most reasonable and rational documents I've read since the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. [The Libertarian Party] has ideals it holds dear, ideas that mirror what our Founding Fathers had in mind . . ."

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Use the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or mail to (and please make checks payable to):

☐ I've updated my address on the reverse. (Please print any corrections.)

OCCUPATION

EMPLOYER

SIGNATURE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

EXPIRES

ACCT. #

☐ Check/money order enclosed. (The FEC prohibits us from accepting corporate checks.)
Or: Please bill my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard.

Total payment enclosed \$

Note: Political contributions are not tax-deductible.

☐ Plus: I would like to make an additional donation of: \$

\$25 for a year's subscription to *LP News*.

☐ Maybe. I like what you're doing, but I'm not ready to become a dues-paying member. Here's

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

achieving political or social goals.

> I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of

subscription to *LP News* and a Libertarian Party membership card.

Please sign me up as a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party. I'll receive a year's

political party, dedicated to restoring the ideals of the Founding Fathers. I have enclosed \$25.

☐ Yes. I want to make my actions worthy of my principles — and help build a new major

I Cherish Freedom Above All Else

YES! I WANT TO JOIN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY BECAUSE...

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Two words Republicans fear the most:



INSIDE: *Quitting isn't enough!*
There's **one more step** we
must take to *regain* our liberty.