



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Clinton's State of the Union speech: Libertarian rhetoric, big-government reality

WASHINGTON, DC — President Bill Clinton has finally acknowledged the most serious problem facing America — but still doesn't have a clue what to do about it, said the Libertarian Party today.

“In his State of the Union speech, Clinton said what Libertarians have been saying for years — that government doesn't work,” said Libertarian Party National Chair Steve Dasbach. “Unfortunately, his solution was just more government programs, draped in flowery New Covenant language.

“Clinton said, ‘We have to cut yesterday's government to help solve tomorrow's problems.’ He's wrong,” said Dasbach. “We have to cut *today's* government to solve *today's* problems. Libertarians know it, and the American public knows it. But all Clinton did was crudely graft libertarian-sounding rhetoric on top of his old-style big-government proposals.

“For example, Clinton said, ‘We must not ask government to do what we should do for ourselves.’ Yet, he boasted about his National Service Corps, a \$389 million program that pays people tax dollars to volunteer — something which tens of millions of Americans already do without drawing a federal paycheck.

“He acknowledged that America no longer has any significant enemies. Yet, he called for a \$25 billion increase in the military budget.

“He said that government should ‘help people raise their incomes immediately by lowering their taxes’ — but didn't offer to repeal his own record-shattering tax increase.

“He said he ‘would never infringe on the right to keep and bear arms.’ Yet, he boasted about

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his support for the semi-automatic weapons ban, which clearly violates the Second Amendment.

“He said that his ‘test for any proposal is: Will it create jobs?’ Yet, he proposed an increase in the minimum wage. The last hike in the minimum wage threw at least 240,000 teenagers out of work.

“He said we must end the ‘illusion that there is somehow a program for every problem’ — then proposed a new government job training program, defended his \$40 billion Mexican bailout, said the debt-ridden Social Security program wouldn’t be touched, said we should force television stations to give free air time to politicians, proposed the creation of a Big Brother-type national worker identification data bank, and threatened a ‘step-by-step’ government campaign to control health care,” said Dasbach.

“It’s clear that Clinton’s timid reforms and false libertarian language won’t be enough to put out the anti-government fire that’s sweeping the country,” said Dasbach. “His State of the Union speech did not deliver what the American public really wanted. The American people want the government *cut* — not reformed, re-invented, or repackaged.”

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