



**Libertarian Party**

**FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEW, CALL:**

George Getz, Communications Director

(202) 333-0008 Ext. 222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 10, 2002**

## **Why is government funding a 'Club Med' for monkeys?**

Retirement home for chimps will cost \$30,000 per animal, Libertarians say

**WASHINGTON, DC** — A plan by the National Institutes of Health to spend \$24 million on a retirement facility for chimpanzees shows why America needs a separation of science and state, Libertarians say.

"This Club Med for monkeys illustrates how easy it is for government bureaucrats to go bananas with other people's money," said Libertarian Party Communications Director George Getz. "Amazingly, these chimps will get better treatment in their golden years than the chump taxpayer."

**In an effort to house 800 chimpanzees that have been "retired" from medical experiments, the National Institutes of Health has created Chimp Haven, an animal sanctuary in Louisiana.**

The cost: \$24 million over 10 years, or \$30,000 per chimpanzee. Organizers say the 200-acre, forested facility is designed to provide a "stimulating and responsive environment essential for chimpanzee development and rehabilitation."

But Libertarians say the plan proves that even relatively non-controversial programs such as medical research need to be taken out of the hands of government.

"Who would have imagined that an agency created to find cures for cancer, AIDS and other debilitating diseases would end up building a \$24 million monkey house?" Getz asked.

The solution is to separate science and state, and let individuals decide which projects are worth funding, Libertarians say.

"With private donors in charge, perhaps the monkeys used in experiments would be given to a zoo, purchased by a private animal sanctuary or even adopted by an animal-rights organization," Getz said. "And if donors wanted to build a Taj Mahal for monkeys, they could do it with their money, not yours."

And here's a suggestion for taxpayers who are going ape over ponying up millions of dollars for a monkey retirement center, said Getz: "Let's retire the politicians who signed off on the NIH's \$27 billion budget. Lock them away in Chimp Haven, where they'll be unable to continue their gorilla war against the taxpayer."

**Want more examples of politicians going ape with your money?**

**Call the Libertarian Party at (202) 333-0008 ext. 222**

# # #