

PREAMBLE

John Hospers

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state, and defend the rights of ^{the} individual.

We hold that each individual has the right to exercise sole dominion over his own life, and has the right to live his life in whatever manner he chooses, so long as he does not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live their lives in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout the ^{history} world have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the state has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. ~~Even within the United States, whose government is less totalitarian than most others,~~ all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the life of the individual and seize the fruits of his labor without his consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that the sole function of government is the protection of the rights of ^{the} individual - namely, (1) the right to life - and accordingly we support legislation prohibiting the initiation of force against others, ~~such as killing, maiming, injuring, and all forms of physical assault upon life and limb;~~ (2) the right to liberty of speech and action - and accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property - and accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support ^{laws} ~~legislation~~ which prohibits robbery, trespass, fraud and misrepresentation.

Since government has only one legitimate function, the protection of individual rights, we oppose any ^{interference} ~~encroachment~~ by government into the areas of voluntary or contractual relations among individuals. ^{Men should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders on a free market; consequent} the only economic system compatible with man's rights, is laissez faire capitalism.

To be included only if these rights are not specified in the platform

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