

Why is the Justice Department attacking Bill Gates — a modern American hero?

“Call off your bureaucratic Lilliputians,” demand Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC — Don't prosecute Bill Gates at Microsoft for antitrust violations — grovel at his feet and **thank him** for creating the most successful software company in the world, Libertarians advised the Justice Department today.

“What the Justice Department is doing is a crime against capitalism,” said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party chairman. “Bill Gates is not a criminal — he's a modern American hero.”

Microsoft is facing \$1 million a day in fines from the Justice Department, which this week accused the Washington state-based software giant of engaging in anti-competitive business practices.

At issue: Whether Microsoft's Internet Explorer — which comes bundled for free on most Windows computers — is limiting consumer choice and unfairly harming software competitors.

The lawsuit was cheered by Microsoft's competitors — who stand to make millions in profits if the government sues Microsoft into submission — and by numerous Washington politicians.

“Isn't it ironic?” asked Dasbach. “Republicans and Democrats who have legislated for themselves 99% of the political marketplace are busy attacking a company that controls only 10% of the overall software industry.”

“Even worse, federal bureaucrats and politicians who have never run a business think they can make better economic decisions than thousands of computer companies, and millions of consumers,” he said. “So they sue America's most successful software entrepreneur — a man who built a company that employs 15,000 Americans, generates \$11 billion in business, and leads the world in innovation and marketing.”

Dasbach acknowledged that Gates is not popular with his competitors — and that, as one of the world's richest men, he's an easy target to pick on.

“Yes, Bill Gates and Microsoft dominate the computer operating system market. Yes, Microsoft is a tough competitor, and yes, Microsoft uses every advantage it has to sell its software and expand its market share. But that's what capitalism is all about. In the end, consumers *benefit* from such unfettered competition — not from government lawsuits,” he said.

And if the government really wants to promote competition and a healthy economy, they should do one thing immediately, said Dasbach: “Call off their bureaucratic Lilliputians in the Justice Department, who are trying to topple this free-enterprise giant, Bill Gates.”

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