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McVeigh verdict proves: Violence is never a solution, says Libertarian Party

Now, how can we make sure that terrorist acts never happen again?

WASHINGTON, DC — With a single word — “Guilty!” — the jury in the Oklahoma City bombing trial confirmed the futility of violence as a means of accomplishing political goals, the Libertarian Party said today.

“Hopefully, this guilty verdict will make people like Timothy McVeigh realize that political objectives are *never* more important than the lives of innocent people,” said Steve Dasbach, chairman of America’s third-largest political party.

“Timothy McVeigh thought he was a patriot. But the *real* patriots are Americans who see problems and create *solutions*, who see violence and try to *prevent* it, and who see government abusing its power and work *peacefully* for liberty,” he said.

McVeigh was found guilty on Monday of setting off the thunderous explosion that destroyed the Alfred J. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1995, killing 168 people and injuring 500 more. The sentencing portion of the trial will commence this week, with McVeigh facing a possible death sentence.

“Whatever the punishment, we hope the survivors and relatives of the victims of the tragic bombing — the innocent people who suffered because of McVeigh — will feel that justice has been done,” said Dasbach.

Now that the trial is almost over, the challenge for the future is to make sure an Oklahoma City-style bombing never happens again, said Dasbach.

“Our goal should be to ensure that no American *ever* feels that violence is their only option,” he said. “Our goal should be to make all Americans feel they have an important role in the political system, and a voice in this nation’s decision-making process, and an opportunity to make constructive change.

“An open political system and robust freedom of expression — that’s the best way to discourage violent acts like the bombing in Oklahoma City,” said Dasbach. “And a country where no one has to live in fear of either their own government or of terrorists like Timothy McVeigh — that would be the best legacy of this tragic trial.”

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