

Libertarian Party Presidential Convention

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General Information

Source:	NBC Nightly News	Resource Type:	Video News Report
Creator:	John Hart/John Cochran	Copyright:	© NBC Universal, Inc.
Event Date:	09/25/1976	Copyright Date:	1976
Air/Publish Date:	09/25/1976	Clip Length	00:02:17

Description

This report covers the 1976 Libertarian Party National Convention. The core tenet of the party is the Jeffersonian belief that the best government is the least government.

Keywords

Libertarian Party, 1976 Presidential Election, Convention, Roger MacBride, Party Platform, Small Government, Political Beliefs, Thomas Jefferson, Jeffersonian Government, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Feminism, Feminists, Abortion Rights, Cindy Cisler, Crime, Income Taxes, Sex, Drug Use, Abolition of Foreign Alliances, Political Neutrality, Switzerland, Third Parties, Independent Party, Libertarianism, Role of Government, Big Government

Transcript

Libertarian Party Presidential Convention

JOHN HART, anchor:

There will be another Presidential candidate soon running on the ballots of 31 or 32 states nominated by a party that believes the government should do almost nothing at all about anything. John Cochran is at the convention of the Libertarian Party.

JOHN COCHRAN, reporting:

These women are active feminists; they joined the Libertarian Party because they are fed up with the attitudes of government in the major parties toward women. One woman complained that neither President Ford nor Jimmy Carter has taken a clear-cut stand on abortion, but that both talk about some government involvement.

Ms. CINDY CISLER, Libertarian Party: The Libertarian view and the traditional feminist view would seem to be that it is not the government's business to be for or against abortion. On the contrary it is government's business to play no role in that personal decision except to protect an individual's right to make it for herself.

COCHRAN: Not all Libertarians are women nor are all of them interested in the women's movement. But they all share one thing, the Jeffersonian belief that the best government is the least government.

Libertarians want to eliminate income taxes eventually, and to abolish laws involving victimless crimes, including those regulating voluntary sex and drug use. In foreign affairs the party's Presidential candidate Roger MacBride, a former Republican, wants to end all formal alliances.

Mr. ROGER MACBRIDE: We think the time has come to realize that we think the interventionism of Wilsonian followers over the last 60 years has brought this country nothing but misery and death. And the time has come to readopt a posture of political neutrality around the world.

COCHRAN: In other words, you want us to become a big Switzerland?

Mr. MACBRIDE: A giant Switzerland is exactly what this country can and ought to be.

COCHRAN: Libertarians do not expect to win the White House, but they do believe that they can make a respectable showing in November if enough voters are unhappy with the Federal government and with conventional politics. The hero of the Libertarian Party is Thomas Jefferson. But even Jefferson found that after he moved into the White House the pressures of office forced him to bend some of his principles about big government. This year's Libertarian candidate will not be put to that kind of test, at least not any time soon. But already the party's workers are talking about 1980. John Cochran, NBC News, Washington.

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