

THE RADICAL LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE

Rothbard, 1969

Since the dawn of civilization, man has had one great enemy -- the State. The State has been the great despot, exploiter, tyrant, enslaver, and mass murderer. The State has ever lived by plunder and oppression. The State is the only group in society which systematically acquires its income and wealth from organized theft, a theft that goes by the name of taxation. It then uses the proceeds of this plunder to harass, regulate, conscript and murder masses of the people. There is one and only one thing that distinguishes the State from a vast gang of organized criminals: the fact that the State and its kept intellectuals have been able to dupe much of the public into believing that the State is not a criminal gang but a group of protectors, humanitarians, and seekers after the public weal. And what is more, that the State is our "sovereign" to whose battle flag we owe abject allegiance and for whom we must work and die without complaint.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, for the first time in man's history, classical liberal and libertarian movements arose which managed to roll back a great deal of State power, and to allow man's individual, group, and social faculties to grow and prosper in relative freedom. The result was an era of partial liberty, the flowering of modern industry and the relief of at least part of the earth from the age-old scourge of famine. In the twentieth century, the State has re-fastened its grip on society and the individual, and has acquired totalitarian power through the use of modern technology. For the first time in history, this gang of criminals stands ready, for some slight to what it conceives to be its "honor", to incinerate the world in nuclear or bacteriological warfare.

But along with this growth of statism in our time there has developed a growing movement of awakened Americans, especially young people, who have seen through the mask of rhetoric with which the State hides its oppression. We of the Radical Libertarian Alliance propose to strive and dedicate ourselves to its immediate abolition. We propose to abolish the State as fast as we can accomplish this feat. In short, if we could push a magic button today which would abolish the State immediately, we would blister our fingers pushing that button. We hold with the great libertarian William Lloyd Garrison that "gradualism in theory is perpetuity in practice"; we are immediate abolitionists and therefore we are radicals and revolutionaries. To achieve the victory of liberty as speedily as possible, we advocate and condone any and all actions which unveil and pinpoint the ruling class thereby leading to the destruction of its agency of oppression and exploitation, the State.

While it is important to refine our ideals and principles, we believe also that we must work to arrive at our goals. Therefore, discussion is not enough; we must act to translate our goals into reality. We must become more than parlor libertarians.

If we wish to act we must enter into working alliances and united fronts with other groups who also see the State as their enemy. While never burying or hiding our own views, we must not be so sectarian as to insist that all of our working allies have theories of economics or political philosophy which agree with ours. For if we refuse to work with allies who also oppose the State, we are in effect ratifying the existing State oppression under which all of us suffer.

We believe that individuals and groups can and should organize freely and voluntarily and that when the State is eliminated a free market and a free society will flourish as never before. Man will create, cooperate, and prosper as he has never done before. But we find nothing incompatible with liberty in individuals or groups who may wish to organize in voluntary communes. Every libertarian has the responsibility to zero in on the government under which he lives and suffers; hence the American libertarian movement has the responsibility to locate as its main enemy the government of the United States. But this is doubly our responsibility; for it is the simple empirical fact that the United States government is currently the major enemy of the peoples of the world. It dictates to and exploits nearly every country on the face of the globe; it threatens the entire globe with nuclear and chemical destruction. The American libertarian movement is therefore necessarily in the vanguard of the abolitionist movement throughout the world.

In recent years, radical movements have increasingly found themselves in confrontation with, and in struggle against, the very essence of the State itself: its coercive forces. From Chicago to People's Park, from Orangeburg to the Algiers Motel, from Watts to Newark, from Berkeley to Cornell to Columbia, the State has unleashed its coercive arm -- the police -- and thereby revealed to us the fraudulence of its democratic rhetoric and the nakedness of its despotism. We support the struggle for the freedom to demonstrate and for the conversion of all State into private or communal property. We also support the struggles of students to gain control of the major instrument of the State's brainwashing: the nation's educational system, its schools and colleges. We must end the power of the State and must call for all power to the people themselves. The campus conflict is part of that great cause. The State and State-supported, and thereby criminal, educational system has no legitimacy; it must be transferred to the control of the people.

We must take part in the great movement against U.S. imperialist wars -- now embodied in the genocidal war against the Vietnamese -- and against the monstrous slavery known as conscription.

As a crucial step in the abolition of all States we support the liberation and national self-determination of the various "internal colonies" oppressed by the United States government: most importantly the movement of the black people for national independence and for the right to control their own lives, and the struggle of the Tijeerina movement of the Southwest to restore the property and land stolen from them by Yankee imperialism.

We endorse the right of all groups to secede from the government of the United States. We also support the movements to fragment and decentralize the American Leviathan, including the drive for

the control by each neighborhood and community of its own resources and institutions.

Unlike many self-proclaimed supporters of an economy of freedom, we recognize that big business has been the main instigator and controller of big government, forming a ruling class, and that it uses big government in a modern form of mercantilism to create cartels, and to gain contracts, subsidies and privileges. Our present economy is not free; rather it is a system of corporate state monopoly capitalism or fascism which is the enemy of all freedoms except the freedom to submit.

When we say that the State must go, we must then say as a corollary that the entire system of State privilege must go as well, along with those institutions and monopolies that are creatures of the State apparatus.

We of the Radical Libertarian Alliance call on all people, of whatever age, class, or group, who subscribe to this statement of principles, to join us in dedication to that greatest of causes -- liberation.

The Radical Libertarian Alliance
Room 1C87
National Press Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20004