

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

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Government Spying Targets Innocent Citizens

by Bob Barr
Libertarian Party Nominee for President

The Bush administration told us that the government had to engage in warrantless surveillance to stop terrorists from attacking America. Administration officials attacked and belittled critics of its expansive, warrantless surveillance for “crying wolf” and thereby endangering Americans. Congress went along with the administration’s violation of both the Constitution and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act by passing new legislation that gave the administration authority to wiretap American citizens in our own country with no individualized warrant, or any evidence of wrong-doing.

Many of us warned about the potential for abuse, especially the threat to the privacy of all Americans posed by widespread and secret government surveillance. Neither the administration nor the Congress, including Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, listened. Now, however, a book about the National Security Agency by James Bamford -- *The Shadow Factory* -- reveals that the government has been routinely eavesdropping on innocent Americans.

The then-head of the NSA and now Director of the CIA, Gen. Michael Hayden, has denied to Congress that Americans’ private conversations were being tapped. But two former military intercept operators have now come forward independently to reveal that they in fact listened in on the personal phone calls of Americans.

For instance, Adrienne Kinne, a U.S. Army reservist, reports that, “[T]hese were just really everyday, average, ordinary Americans who happened to be in the Middle East, in our area of intercept and happened to be making these phone calls on satellite phones.” Many of them were serving in the military, or working for aid organizations or the press. They were not planning attacks on the U.S. Rather, explains Kinne, the subjects discussed were “personal, private things with Americans who are not in any way, shape or form associated with anything to do with terrorism.”

Navy linguist David Murfee Faulk says much the same

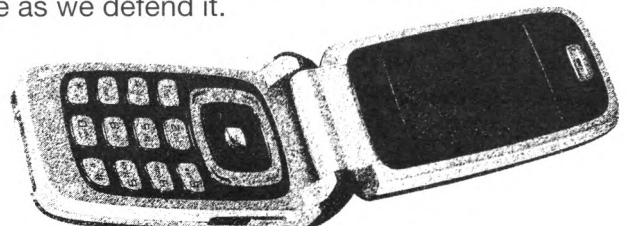
of the results of his work between 2003 and 2007. He listened to Americans “calling home to the United States, talking to their spouses, sometimes their girlfriends, sometimes one phone call following another.” Moreover, Faulk admitted that he and the other operators would share especially interesting phone calls, like “some colonel making pillow talk.”

The point is that no useful information was ever recovered. When operators wasted their time eavesdropping on the conversations of innocent Americans -- and invading their privacy -- they were not monitoring genuine terrorist suspects. Adrienne Kinne admits: “It’s almost like they’re making the haystack bigger and it’s harder to find that piece of information that might actually be useful.” In short, violating our liberties makes Americans both less free and less safe.

The government can and should have the authority to gather information on those who are involved in harming our nation. But that power must be carefully circumscribed and its use must be closely monitored; and those who abuse that power must be held accountable. This is the basis and strength of our constitutional system, designed to protect both our security and our liberty.

For nearly eight years, the Bush administration has enshrined disrespect for the law as official government policy. The Congress, under both Republican and Democratic control, has failed to uphold either the law or the Constitution. Since both Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain have endorsed expanded warrantless surveillance, neither one would restore our constitutional liberties as president.

Only Bob Barr and the Libertarian Party are even willing to talk about these issues, let alone to bring real change to Washington. We must never forget that it is a free society that we are defending. We must keep it free as we defend it.



Volunteering Tips for November 4

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

All eyes are on the Libertarian Party in 2008, and expectations for a record vote total have never been higher. The pressure is tangible in the office, and I am fielding hundreds of requests a week for volunteer opportunities across the United States. Getting out the vote is a crucial part of our campaign strategies, and I have been working hard with volunteers from state chairs, all the way down to volunteers on the ground in some areas.

At this stage of the game, volunteers should be focusing on the basics. This means canvassing your neighborhood, calling your friends and families to encourage them to vote on November 4 and general politicking. However, there are some other non-traditional activities that Libertarians can engage in to help spread the message in ways that you may not have thought of.

For example, why not try holding a "Voter Informational Lunch" at your office? If you can get permission from management, schedule a lunch period for your coworkers, and invite them to come and learn more about the Libertarian Party's perspective on the current economic crisis the United States is facing. You may be surprised to see the turnout from this, as many people are seeking answers, and McCain and Obama seem unwilling to offer any real solutions. Send out an email to the company inviting everyone, and make the atmosphere friendly, and sociable. Avoid getting into any disagreements with people, and just focus on the positive aspects of the message of Liberty.

Canvassing your own neighborhood is a great way to engage the voters in your area, and seeing a high LP vote total from your district would mean you were the one who made a difference! You can get materials from www.lpstuff.com as well as www.bobbarr2008.com.

On Bob Barr's Web site you can also download his pamphlet for free to distribute to save time and expense. If you want to canvas your own neighborhood, make sure that you are respectful of private property, and do what you can to not get into arguments. One of the most important tools you have in your kit is your smile. Showing a positive attitude and a smiling face when you engage people at their front door can immediately put them into the right frame of mind for you to engage them in civil discussion.

While canvassing, you may hear, "But I don't want



to waste my vote."

This is the most common argument against a third party vote that I get. My responses vary depending on who I am speaking with, you will want to analyze your prospect first to find out what issues are important to them, and then determine your approach to them accordingly. Make sure you emphasize in your answer how their "lesser of two evils candidate" is not meeting their needs.

Suggest that not voting for what you believe in is wasting your vote. Does their candidate believe in bringing the troops home, cutting wasteful spending, and reducing the size of government? No? Then we are the people you should be voting for. By voting for the Libertarian Party, you are increasing our vote totals, thereby giving us easier access to the ballot next time. This saves us time and money and allows us to have our time and money free for advertising and getting our message across.

There are many different ways you can be active in your community to help turn out the Libertarian vote in your communities. If you are interested in getting more involved please get in touch with me at your earliest convenience, and I can give you activities to do all the way up to November 4. You can reach me at Austin.petersen@lp.org.

Let's work together to get out the vote!

LP Candidates Seize Upon Winning Issue

by Sean Haugh
Political Director for the Libertarian Party

We should thank the Democrats and Republicans for one thing. They have handed Libertarian candidates a winning issue just in time for the November elections by passing the \$700 billion, pork-laden Wall Street bailout package.

According to an Associated Press article by Ben Evans, "Libertarian candidate Bob Barr couldn't have scripted a better story line to argue that Republicans and Democrats are interchangeable – with a helpless addiction to spending."

"We're seeing an enormous amount of activity coming in from the Web site, from people opposed to the bailout," said Bob Barr's campaign manager Russ Verney. "They've had it, they're coming over and they're bringing their friends."

Libertarian candidates for Congress are piling on in debates with pro-bailout incumbents. Yvonne Schick, running for U.S. Senate in Texas against John Corwyn said in her latest debate, "Texans feel betrayed. They feel they can no longer trust either party to stand on the Constitution ... or to even use common sense."

Schick was joined by a chorus from Texas candidates, who are contesting 29 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

One typical response came from District 21 candidate James Arthur Strohm. "I condemn [Lamar Smith's] vote for this bill on its first round in the House," Strohm said, "as I condemn the vote of any Congressman who thought it was a good enough idea to vote for."

Michigan's 16 federal candidates also offered a coordinated response. In their press release, U.S. House District 2 candidate Dan Johnson said, "It's us hard-working Americans who work, save to buy a home, and pay our bills, who are being asked to mortgage not only our future, but our children's and grandchildren's future to pay for this. We need to stop this now, and we need to elect a Libertarian Congress in November."

California's federal candidates also offered a joint statement, observing that this bailout package is not the beginning of the failed government intervention in our economy, nor by any means will it be the end.

"Twenty years ago, the S&L bailout cost \$160 billion," according to their joint press release. "What will the next bailout cost?"

"Libertarians say it's time to stop the insanity," the statement continued. "Bailout advocates claim the government could profit from buying these non-performing mortgages. If this were true, then let private investors



pursue these opportunities with their own money instead of with your tax dollars."

Christopher Cole, North Carolina's nominee for U.S. Senate, who is running against pro-bailout incumbent Elizabeth Dole, sums up the negative effects of the bailout quite well. "It creates a sense of security, whether realistic or not," noted Cole, "that businesses will be rescued from the consequences of bad business decisions. This will increase risky loans and investments, not reduce them. American taxpayers should never be on the hook for the profits of businessmen."

Allen Buckley, running for U.S. Senate against pro-bailout incumbent Saxby Chambliss in Georgia, said, "I've received a lot of emails from people who said they would vote for me because of my opposition to the bailout."

According to an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Buckley has inspired more than just email support. "At least one self-described lifelong Republican thinks otherwise," the newspaper reports. "Ron Davis of Dallas (Georgia) said he was so infuriated by Chambliss' bailout vote that he set up the Web site <http://www.FireSaxby.com>."

The article concluded, "Davis said he'll vote for Buckley in November, adding that GOP friends in his neighborhood are also disillusioned with Chambliss."

"I think he should be worried," Davis said.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

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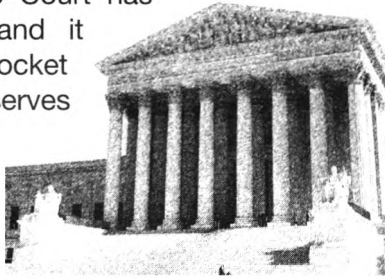
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This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis
Director of Communications for the Libertarian Party

Appoint Judges Who Uphold Constitution

Oct. 6 - "The Supreme Court has begun another term, and it again possesses a full docket of critical cases," observes Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party nominee for president. "Judicial appointments are one of the most important issues in choosing the next president, but we don't need conservative or liberal justices. Rather, we need justices committed to the Constitution, with its stringent limits on government power and strong protections for individual liberty," Barr explains.

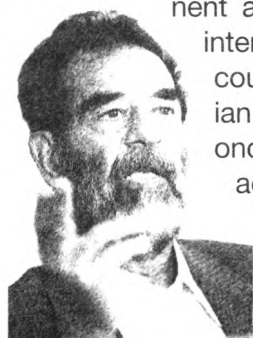


"Last term, the Supreme Court delivered some important rulings on behalf of constitutional liberty, but just barely. It defended both the right to own firearms and the right to habeas corpus by the narrowest of margins—only a five to four decision," notes Barr. "These decisions were commonly treated as 'conservative' and 'liberal' wins, respectively, but they were actually victories for the Constitution," he says.

"As president, I would appoint justices who understand that the Constitution created a national government of only limited, enumerated powers. There would be no litmus test for any particular issue. Rather, my only concern would be their commitment to the Constitution and the system of limited government and individual liberty that it creates. Only when Supreme Court justices and other federal judges are dedicated to defending the Constitution as written will our liberties be secure," explains Barr.

Bush Hypes Danger...Again

Oct. 6 - "The Bush administration once again misled Americans into believing extreme danger was imminent and extraordinary U.S. government intervention was required to save our country," says Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee. "And, once again, the intervention of the Bush administration has made things much worse."



"In 2003, the Bush administration said that if we did not act immediately in Iraq, Americans faced

imminent threats, and conjured images of mushroom clouds and terror attacks," Barr explains. "Americans, trusting that our government officials knew what they were talking about, went along with the panicked calls for action, only to be bogged down in an occupation of Iraq for the last five years."

"When financial firms began feeling the impact of years of irresponsible lending, Bush, along with Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, began invoking similar apocalyptic scenarios—like the Great Depression—justifying immediate government intervention in the economy," Barr continues. "Now, taxpayers are \$700 billion in the hole, and the economy is continuing its downward slide."

Wall Street Benefits Twice from Bailout

Oct. 10 - Senator John McCain attempted to disguise reality by calling the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout a "rescue," but it's obvious that the only people he and his colleagues were rescuing were the executives who had made bad investment decisions, as well as the politicians who had pushed increased mortgage lending, irrespective of cost, triggering today's crisis. Now it turns out that the companies getting bailed out will benefit twice.

Wall Street is looking forward to milking this latest cash cow. Since government jumped into the investment business, the *Wall Street Journal* tells us that "a range of firms—from large investment banks to boutique real-estate companies—have been angling to grab some of the advisory business." Representatives of some companies showed up in Washington to lobby even before Congress approved the bailout. And who can blame them? The *Journal* reports that "sales, financing and other traditional forms of real estate business have dried up with the credit crisis."

Of course, most of these firms helped cause that very crisis. Most of the companies bidding for government business are suffering big losses and preparing to unload lots of bad paper on the government. Bad paper that other big companies with big losses and lots of bad paper will manage. And so the circle will go on endlessly, at taxpayer expense.

