

# NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF ED CLARK  
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Earlier this year, my campaign staff commissioned a study by Opinion Research, Inc. of Princeton, New Jersey for the purpose of analyzing voter sentiment. On Tuesday we received the initial results from the study which surveyed 1200 Americans between the ages of 18 and 40. As a new third party we are naturally targeting the bulk of our efforts toward that segment of the population which has demonstrated the least commitment to the Republicans and Democrats. I believe the 1980's will be the decade of the Libertarian party, and that the 18 to 40 age group will lead the way in creating a three party America. Let me hasten to point out, however, that we have not written off any segment of the American public.

The overall results of the Opinion Research study are extremely encouraging. The following findings are of particular significance to my campaign:



- 1.) 47% surveyed said they believed a strong third party would revitalize our political system; only 39% disagreed, and 14% had no opinion. This is a clear indication that the time is ripe for a serious third party to emerge in this country.
- 2.) 45% said they would support a third party candidate whose two major planks were much lower taxes and much less American intervention in the affairs of other nations; 45% said they would not, and 10% said they were undecided. These happen to be the major two issues I am running on this year, although we will be stressing numerous other important planks in my program. Certainly the combination of lower taxes and less U.S. intervention is not present in the programs of Jimmy Carter or Ronald Reagan.
- 3.) In a trial heat with Reagan, Carter, and myself the results were: Carter 50%, Reagan 20%, Clark 8%, the remainder undecided. I find this result, prior to my active full time campaign or the commencement of my national television spots, to be surprisingly positive.
- 4.) 69% favor a Constitutional amendment to require the federal government to balance the budget. This is a position I endorsed in 1978.
- 5.) 71% believe the Social Security system is not financially sound. This summer I will issue a White Paper that will detail my proposals for avoiding the financial catastrophe that lies ahead for those presently paying into the Social Security system.



6.) 63% favor a proposal I intend to make a major part of my campaign: federal income tax credits to assist parents in sending their children to the school of their choice.

I was particularly pleased with the attitudes toward foreign affairs and military spending reflected in the survey. My campaign will be the only one to advocate a non-interventionist foreign policy and reduced military spending. It would appear that a large percentage of voters in 1980 agree with the Libertarian position in this area.

7.) 57% disapprove of the United States getting involved in the domestic affairs of other nations; only 25% said they approved of such intervention.

8.) 60% said that anti-American sentiment in the Third World was a direct result of U.S. intervention and only 30% said such sentiment was the result of other factors.

9.) 69% said that the approximately 60% of our defense budget that goes to defend other nations was too high.

A final report on this survey will be issued by my staff in April. I have been very optimistic about the prospects for creating a three party America in 1980, and the initial results of this survey confirm that the Libertarian party has the issues in this campaign to do just that.