

# NEWS RELEASE

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### ANDERSON ACCUSED OF DUPLICITY

Washington, D.C. (May 9)--John Anderson was criticized today by Ed Crane, Communications Director for Libertarian presidential candidate Ed Clark. Anderson, according to Crane, "is being disingenuous in his recent attacks on the two party system."

In a May 8 article in the Washington Post, Anderson is quoted as stating, "They say the two party system has a lock on this country. I say no." Crane claimed that "Anderson's own record in Congress proves that he himself had helped to lock in two party control of the electoral process."

As evidence of "Anderson's duplicity" on the matter, Crane cited the Congressman's testimony on federal election reform before the House Subcommittee on Elections on October 16, 1973. "When this landmark legislation was being discussed in Congress," said Crane, "John Anderson was its leading Republican proponent, and he made no bones about how it would protect the two major parties from competition."



In the testimony, Anderson said, "But I hardly need remind this committee that there are other important objectives as well...it is imperative that there be strong institutions capable of fashioning consensus and reconciling diverse interests and views. The alternative is perpetual governmental stalemate and inertia. I believe that our political parties perform that aggregating and consensus forming role, so it is vitally imperative that the changes we adopt not discourage their ability to thrive."

The testimony continued, "Thus, in designing a public finance program, we must take care to see that political parties are encouraged and strengthened rather than undermining them because of this important institutional influence that they can have on the whole political process."

"Anderson," said Crane, "might be admired for the audacity with which he so candidly discusses the real motivation behind the Federal Election Campaign Act, if it weren't for the hypocrisy it exposes in his current position."

Crane also charged that Anderson's views on the subject had not changed as late as November 15, 1976 when, in a panel discussion of the F.E.C.A. sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute, Anderson told then-independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy, "I am darned glad we have a two party system in this country." Anderson continued, "And as much as I cherish your right to a platform as an independent candidate, I am not

going to sit here quietly and listen to you denigrate the two party system. It has served our country well over the last 200 years."

Crane said, "I generally welcome anyone who expresses concern over the entrenchment of the Democrats and Republicans. In light of Mr. Anderson's record, however, it is clear his concern stems from the failure to win his party's nomination, and not from any principled commitment to free up the political process in America."