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CLARK CALLS FOR END TO 'POLITICS OF EXCLUSION'

Statement of Ed Clark
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The recent outburst of violence in Miami is a warning of the desperate conditions in America's inner cities. The heartless economic policies of the Carter Administration have created massive unemployment and despair among minority Americans. In the interests of justice and economic prosperity, these policies must be changed.

Unemployment nationally is over 7% now, with more than 7 million people out of work. But the situation is much worse among minorities, teenagers, and inner-city residents. Among black teenagers in large cities, unemployment may be as high as 40 or 50 percent.

These figures are outrageous. The policies that have brought them about are indefensible. It is incredible that a President responsible for such policies would offer himself as

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a candidate for re-election. He and the members of Congress who have created the joblessness, poverty, and despair of the inner cities should have resigned in disgrace long ago.

For years the policies of the federal government have -- by design or by accident -- destroyed jobs, closed off economic opportunity, and kept the poor out of the economic mainstream. Considering these policies, it is no wonder that black and Hispanic Americans are demanding a change.

Only the Libertarian Party offers the real change that minority Americans need. For years Republicans and Democrats have practiced a politics of exclusion. The Libertarian Party offers a politics of hope and opportunity for minorities.

Every aspect of federal policy, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, has served to close off our economic system and keep minorities out of the economic mainstream. These policies have not always been motivated by racism, but they have been supported by some people who have established themselves in our society and don't want their positions threatened. Black and Hispanic Americans, having never had an opportunity to get out of this system, have suffered most from these exclusionary policies. It's past time to end the politics of exclusion and open up the system.

Our educational system is failing to educate. It has failed most tragically in the inner cities. Black parents,

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seeing their local public schools becoming centers of ignorance and violence, are desperately looking for an alternative. The Libertarian Party will break the ignorance cycle in the inner cities. I am proposing an education tax credit program that will give choice to parents. We are going to shift decision-making power about education from the education establishment to parents and students -- and at last inner-city parents will be able to choose decent schools for their children.

The welfare system encourages paternalism and dependence on the part of recipients. Welfare recipients, unable to find jobs in a government-manipulated economic system, are bullied, interrogated, stigmatized, and dominated by bureaucrats. The bureaucrats' own jobs depend on keeping the welfare rolls up. The cost to the taxpayers is soaring, yet welfare recipients barely receive enough to live on. The Libertarian program for economic growth and an open economic system will put people back to work and end the need for this program. We can break the dependence cycle by creating jobs.

Government-sponsored urban renewal programs have destroyed black neighborhoods and uprooted families in countless cities. We don't need bureaucrats in Washington coming in and destroying neighborhoods. I'll put a stop to that.

Licensing restrictions have kept new entrants out of many fields. A certificate to operate a taxicab in Miami, for example, sells for about \$15,000. A young black man who wanted to go into business for himself could buy a serviceable car for a few

hundred dollars -- but the Dade County government would forbid him to use it as a cab unless he purchased a certificate. Similar restrictions by state or local governments apply in some 850 different occupations, making it difficult or impossible to enter those fields. The Libertarian program for the 1980's calls for opening up these occupations to new competitors.

The federal minimum wage law has destroyed hundreds of thousands of jobs, especially for teenagers and minorities. The federal government makes it illegal to hire a worker for less than \$3.10 an hour. So if a young man or woman isn't worth \$3.10 an hour to an employer, he or she isn't hired at all. And the teenager who doesn't get that first job becomes the young person with no job experience, unable to get any job. This cruel law must be repealed immediately. This single step would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

The Libertarian politics of hope and opportunity will give black and Hispanic Americans an opportunity to get a decent education, a way out of the welfare system, and new economic opportunities.

For Miami, where existing policies have had a particularly severe impact, we have another proposal -- a simple, radical, and practical program to open up the system.

I propose to make Miami America's first "urban enterprise zone." Under this proposal, we will suspend all taxes, regulations, zoning, minimum wage laws, and other economic controls, as well as restrictions on international trade. Miami has a large supply

of industrious people willing to work hard to get ahead. I propose that the government get out of their way and let them succeed.

Miami's position as the gateway to Latin America is a tremendous economic opportunity. By removing restrictions on international trade and making the city a freeport, we can take advantage of this opportunity. As Latin America develops during the rest of this century, Miami will be a great port city connecting it to the United States.

New businesses will be formed in the absence of controls and regulations, and thousands of jobs will be created. Miami's economy will be the envy of every other city, and a model for expanding open economic systems throughout the United States.

One of the advantages of this Libertarian program is that it will reduce racial conflict and social disharmony. We will not set up a government bureaucracy or a government funding agency for different groups to fight over. Every individual will be able to compete on his or her own, and no one's success will come at the expense of other people.

Republican and Democratic programs for minorities have failed. They have increased paternalism, dependence, poverty, and despair. Individual freedom and responsibility have been sacrificed along with jobs and prosperity. It is time for a new approach.

I invite black and Hispanic Americans to consider the Libertarian program. I believe that in the 1980's the Libertarian

Party will attract substantial support from minorities because only the Libertarian approach offers jobs, justice, and hope for the future.

The Libertarian vision for the future is a free, prosperous, and pluralistic society in which no group will use the power of government to regulate or oppress others. Individuals will be free to live their own lives, make their own decisions, and pursue their own goals. Such a society is the only one in which minority Americans can survive and prosper.

It's time to replace the politics of exclusion with the politics of hope and opportunity.