



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Watergate Office Building ♦ 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 ♦ Washington, DC 20037

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For additional information
Bill Winter, Director of Communications
(202) 333-0008

Ross Perot's new fourth party "will change nothing" in American politics

WASHINGTON, DC -- Despite all the hoopla and promises, Ross Perot's planned new political party "will change nothing fundamental in American politics" -- and will probably just end up a minor footnote in history, predicted the Libertarian Party today.

"Mr. Perot's new fourth party is too vague, too timid, and too indebted to the failed older parties to have any lasting impact on American politics," charged Steve Dasbach, Chairman of America's third largest political party.

Dasbach said the differences between Perot's new "phony party" -- and a real third party like the Libertarian Party -- suggest that the proposed Independence Party won't play a pivotal role in 1996 or beyond. Specifically:

■ The Independence Party will run *only* a presidential candidate in 1996.

"A real political party runs candidates at every level -- not just for president," said Dasbach. "In 1994, for example, 652 Libertarians ran for public office. In 1996, we'll field more than 1,000 candidates. No other group can match the Libertarian Party's ability to field candidates for all levels of government."

■ The Independence Party will endorse other party's candidates for U.S. House and Senate.

"A real third party doesn't endorse the candidates of rival political parties," said Dasbach. "If all those Republicans and Democrats are doing such a great job, why does Mr. Perot think we need a new party? By contrast, we *don't* think Congress is getting the job done, and that's why we'll run Libertarian Party candidates for a majority of U.S. House seats, the first time in 80 years a third party has accomplished this."

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■ The Independence Party will stress timid government "reforms" such as term limits, a balanced budget amendment, and lobbying and campaign reform.

"These issues are important, but none of Mr. Perot's proposed reforms correct America's fundamental problem -- that government is too big, too expensive, and too intrusive," said Dasbach. "Yes, he's in favor of a balanced budget, but a budget balanced at a crushing \$1.5 trillion is no solution. Perot supports term limits, but cycling the same corrupt Republicans and Democrats in and out of office faster is no solution. In the long run, only seriously *reducing* the size and scope of government will create the *genuine* reforms that Mr. Perot's followers crave."

■ The Independence Party has no fundamental, philosophical guiding principles about the proper role of government.

"A real political party has a comprehensive, consistent platform that addresses all important political issues -- and presents a vision of a better America," said Dasbach. "But Ross Perot's agenda is just another empty Contract with America. You could enact the entire thing and it wouldn't have any noticeable effect on the daily life of the average American.

"Mr. Perot is also frustratingly vague on many issues that concern Americans most," charged Dasbach. "Does his new party have a position on taxes? On a woman's right to choose? On drug prohibition? On the failed welfare state? On foreign policy? On agricultural subsidies? On trade policy, other than GATT and NAFTA? The last thing America needs is another party that doesn't stand for anything."

After thoroughly examining Mr. Perot's plans, Dasbach said, "The Independence Party seems to be just a rich man's plaything -- Perot's last chance to play king-maker in the 1996 election. But it won't have any lasting impact, and it won't last."

Dasbach said some good may arise from Perot's Independence Party: "It may help turn attention to the one party that is all the things Mr. Perot's party is not -- principled, credible, lasting, and running a full slate of candidates in 1996. That one party -- America's real third party -- is the Libertarian Party."

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