

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 26, 1999**

Buchanan: Good news for 3rd parties, but Reform Party death sentence?

Buchanan's authoritarianism will shatter Reform Party, predict Libertarians

WASHINGTON, DC — The announcement by Pat Buchanan that he will seek the Reform Party's presidential nomination is good news for third parties in general — but will be disastrous news for the Reform Party, the Libertarian Party predicted today.

"Libertarians welcome Mr. Buchanan because a rising tide of well-known candidates lifts all third-party boats," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. **"But Buchanan's controversial candidacy will probably be the U-boat torpedo that sinks the Reform Party's ship."**

"With Buchanan in the race, Reform Party members face a stark choice: Whether to support their party's traditional fuzzy libertarianism and generic reform impulses, or take a hard right turn towards Mr. Buchanan's scary xenophobic, authoritarian nationalism," he said.

"The fuse has been lit. We're now going to see a struggle for the Reform Party's soul — and it's going to be an ugly, siege-of-Stalingrad-style battle that may shatter the fledgling party to pieces."

On Monday, Buchanan formally announced that he was leaving the Republican Party to go the Reform Party route. The pugnacious TV commentator may now face off against Donald Trump — the billionaire New York developer famous for his out-sized ego, gaudy buildings, and beautiful girlfriends — for the Reform's presidential nomination.

Interestingly, it probably won't matter to the success of the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 2000 whether Buchanan or Trump gets the Reform Party nomination, said Dasbach.

"Both Buchanan and Trump are big-government politicians, albeit slightly unorthodox ones," he noted. "Buchanan wants to restrict free trade, declare a government war on abortion, close the borders, impose traditional cultural values — and has said Adolf Hitler was a 'genius.' Trump wants to restrict free trade, close the borders, keep Social Security from being privatized — and said he might declare war on North Korea."

"The bottom line: Whoever the Libertarian Party nominates for president, he will be the *only* candidate genuinely in favor of a smaller, less expensive, less intrusive federal government. There's a demand for those kind of positive, principled positions — which won't be met by the two older parties, or by Pat Buchanan and his politics of protectionism and fear."

#