



CATO Institute and Ayn Rand

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Read more: <http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/blogspot/Hzoh/~3/8fodTbgq6Gs/cato-institute-and-ayn-rand.html#ixzz20nFtpPQp>

Via [alternet](#) comes this bit of news:

...John Allison, a former bank CEO and a leader of the Rand movement, has just become president of the Cato Institute, the oldest and most influential libertarian think tank. This received only a modest amount of attention when it surfaced late last month, and you had to be a real political junkie to even be aware of it. But it is a seminal event in recent political history—a dramatic indication of the mainstreaming of the radical right.

What it means is that the Rand movement, which was little more than a cult when the Atlas Shrugged author died thirty years ago, has effectively merged with the vastly larger libertarian movement. While many differences are likely to remain—particularly as far as Ron Paul's fading candidacy is concerned, given the Randers' support for abortion and opposition to his foreign policy views —this means that Objectivism, Rand's quasi-religious philosophy, is going to permeate the political process more than ever before.

Allison, former CEO of North Carolina's BB&T Bank, is not just going to be the Cato Institute's sugar daddy. He replaces Ed Crane as president, meaning that he will have day-to-day control over the most significant libertarian organization in the country. Allison is a board member of the Ayn Rand Institute, the orthodox, no-compromise Randian organization, and is best known for his foundation donating free Rand books to thousands of schoolchildren across the nation—a crass exploitation of the fiscal troubles besetting primary schools.