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## **Libertarians hurt their cause calling for open borders; should the LP consider a shadow cabinet?**

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Since I am a friend of the LP but not a member (I am trying to be a good Republican these days but sometimes it is difficult!) I think I have the right to speak the truth in love to my LP friends.

Let's start with this statement from the new LP National Chairman, who I have spoken to and who I respect very much, fellow lawyer (and he is a public defender, too! I was VA's first Appellate Defender.) Nicholas Sarwark. (Thanks to Independent Political Report again for this)

Sarwark, speaking for the LP, calls for us to take in all the immigrant children:

“Should the U.S. government forbid foreign children from entering the United States? The Libertarian Party says no.

It would be unjust and inhumane for the U.S. government to prohibit these children from entering the United States.

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Libertarians do not support forcing people to pay for other children's welfare, and there are obviously costs associated with helping children who arrive in the United States. However, there are many charitable organizations that have already mobilized to provide that help. A nation of 320 million people can provide sufficient charitable help to the number of children involved (around 50,000 over the last nine months). And if we'd just end the War on Drugs, the number of refugee children would be much lower.

Ultimately, the fact that many of these children are fleeing dangerous situations isn't the issue. Even if they were coming to the United States for

fun, we should still allow them to enter. All foreigners should be allowed entry into the United States unless the government can produce positive evidence that they pose a threat to security, health, or property.

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Some observers have noted that generous benefit and subsidy programs in the United States, including free education and health care, may be attracting lazy foreigners. The Libertarian Party supports the abolition of government benefits and subsidies, for both natives and foreigners. It's worth pointing out that foreigners use these programs at a lower rate than natives, according to a recent report by the Cato Institute.

It's a shame that many in the media are trying to make Americans feel fear and suspicion toward immigrants. It's particularly disgusting that protesters would yell at children to make their political point. Immigration is good for foreigners and good for Americans, and we need to change our laws to make immigration much easier."

I'm sorry but a lot of good Libertarian candidates just lost the vote of a lot of conservatives or libertarian-minded Republicans or tea party people who are disgusted with things like what happened in Mississippi. But amnesty is not the answer. It can't be. Yes we need immigration reform. We need border control and enforcement of the laws right now. We do need to find areas to withdraw benefits to illegal immigrants without failing to meet emergency human needs. And unlike some leaders in DC, we do not need to punish US citizen and other legal workers through biometric ID cards for legal workers! We need to celebrate legal immigration.

I respect the LP for saying open borders and free trade are desirable. They are desirable at some point in time. But not now and not while the nation is roiled over amnesty. The immigrant children should be humanely treated (yes, private charities should provide soccer balls and teddy bears – and for those Christian ministries, a proclamation of the Gospel, too!) but they should be sent back to their home country unless there is a serious asylum request with serious facts behind it. Certainly the effort made to send the German homeschoolers back to punishment ought to set the standard for political asylum.

The LP should have not called for us to take these children in. They needlessly lost a lot of votes. If I were advising a GOP candidate (And I am really not) I would pin this on any LP opponent I had. And if I were a LP candidate (and I was asked this year to run for Congress!) I would have clearly repudiated this position.

On a more positive note: The Green Shadow Cabinet gave me an idea for the LP: Should they have a Shadow Cabinet? Might be a way to get their positions out in a organized and dignified manner. Of course, the Cabinet members need to be vetted to prevent something like what just happened to the Green Party on Israel. But it might be helpful to have a semi-official position from a representative well-versed in these

issues. The Shadow Cabinet could be appointed by the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees and be just a few positions – after all Libertarians want to reduce government not increase it. Definitely not 100 people like the Greens have! A Shadow Secretary of State, Attorney General, Secretary of the Treasury and Defense. Most of the rest of the Cabinet officials could be summed up as: Abolish my position, but in the meantime, great such-and-such relief. Free advice from a friend. It would be great to see if I agree.

And my advice to the LP Shadow Attorney General: Watch those open borders!