



BREAKING... Crane out by year's end at Cato, Ayn Randist to take over

Hopeful sign for pro-defense libertarians?

From Eric Dondero:

Progress for the pro-defense wing of the libertarian movement? Cato in recent years, under the stewardship of Ed Crane and VP Dave Boaz, has tended towards a more leftist Ron Paul type foreign policy. Now, breaking this morning, from Menafm.com, "Allison, former BB&T chief, to lead libertarian Cato Institute":

John Allison, retired chairman and chief executive of BB&T Corp., will take over as chief executive of The Cato Institute by year's end, the libertarian think tank said Monday.

Allison, 63, was chosen as part of a settlement of lawsuits filed by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch against the Washington-based institute; Ed Crane, its chief executive of 35 years; and several board members.

On Allison:

He is a devotee of author Ayn Rand and the conservative philosophical theory called objectivism. The theory extols rational individualism, creativity, independent thinking and a limited role for government as a protector of peace.

Crane and Charles Koch touted Allison's leadership and business skills. Besides joining the Cato board, Allison will be able to nominate up to two more members.

"John Allison enjoys wide respect throughout both the business community and the free-market movement," said John Hood, president of the John Locke Foundation, a libertarian policy-research group in Raleigh. "I expect the Cato Institute to prosper under his leadership."

Of course, Randists tend to be much more realistic on the threat to America's national security from Islamism.