

The Washington Post

WSJ sees off Cato's Ed Crane

By: Allen McDuffee - October 24, 2012

As Cato's Ed Crane steps down, and John Allison becomes the libertarian think tank's new president, The Wall Street Journal published an editorial ("Ed Crane's freedom legacy") in Wednesday's paper on what they remember as Ed Crane's legacy and not the battle he had with the Koch brothers that resulted in the end of his tenure.

The cause of limited government is enjoying a political resurgence, and it may even prevail on November 6. But if it fails on Election Day, the fault won't lie with Ed Crane, who has stepped down this month after 35 years building the Cato Institute and promoting free people and free markets.

With money from Wichita businessman and libertarian Charles Koch, Mr. Crane founded Cato in San Francisco in 1977 with a budget of \$800,000 and a staff of 10. He reluctantly moved the think tank to Washington in 1981 to more effectively communicate the small-government case in the heart of Leviathan. Cato's annual budget is now \$21 million with a staff of 127, and its scholars have led the battles for entitlement reform, regulatory restraint, free trade and lower taxes.