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More on Ron Paul

By **DAVID HARSANYI** |  9 Comments

[1]

I've been getting rather colorful email from Ron Paul supporters regarding my "[hit piece](#)"^[2] this morning.

The most common grievance is my writing this line: "Paul's newsletters of the '80s and '90s were filled with anti-Semitic and racist rants, proving his slumming in the ugliest corners of [conspiracyland](#)"^[3] today is no mistake."

For those who interested in learning more, [this investigation](#)^[4] by New Republic's James Kirchick is instructive – though, I will say, I don't find every lifted quote to be as egregious as the author.

[One newsletter](#),^[5] right after the 1992 LA riots, just to give you a taste, says "order was only restored in L.A. when it came time for the blacks to pick up their welfare checks."

Julian Sanchez and David Weigel furthered the story [with this piece in Reason](#)^[6] which offers plenty of background for those interested in the ideological underpinnings of the newsletters and Paul.

This stood out for me:

Cato Institute President Ed Crane told reason he recalls a conversation from some time in the late 1980s in which Paul claimed that his best source of congressional campaign donations was the mailing list for The Spotlight, the conspiracy-mongering, anti-Semitic tabloid run by the Holocaust denier Willis Carto until it folded in 2001.

Because that paragraph brings me to [this piece](#)^[7] from the American Thinker that explores some of Paul's unsavory support from neo-Nazis and Klan members.

There are a number of people claiming that [I called Paul a racist and anti-Semite](#)^[8], which I did not. In fact, when I first learned the content of his newsletter, I wrote this (no link available).

Many of the vile pull quotes here, no matter what context they may have been in originally, have nothing to do libertarianism or freedom or some principled Constitutional stand on secession. They're just racist and homophobic. Two: even if Paul didn't know of their existence, he should have made it his business to know. **It's exceedingly difficult for me to believe that Paul was unaware of the content in a newsletter bearing his name. Judging from what I've read and heard from the man, I do not believe he wrote these things. But I'm not sure it matters.** If George Bush or Hillary Clinton or any mainstream politician were even remotely associated with the sort of rambling anti-Semitic, homophobic, racist and paranoid text, they would be finished as legitimate voices. Paul should be finished, as well.

When asked if he was a racist at the time by CNN, Paul responded: “Libertarians are incapable of being a racist, because racism is a collectivist idea.” That is as inane as a socialist claiming that he can’t be greedy because greed is an individualist idea. What makes that statement even more curious is that so many Ron Paul fans heap cultish — collective — adoration on a politician.

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