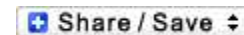


# Libertarians opposed to new war plans for Afghanistan

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**WASHINGTON – The Libertarian Party (LP) today expressed its opposition to the Afghanistan war plans announced by President Barack Obama last week.**

Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the LP, said, “Rush Limbaugh should buy Obama a nice cigar. The liberal president has done exactly what the conservative leader wanted: escalate the war.”

William Redpath, Chairman of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), commented, “This is further evidence that the differences between Republicans and Democrats are, at most, rhetorical. This president, whose votes made him the most liberal member of the U.S. Senate, has just announced an escalation of a foreign war. His campaign promise of ‘Change’ now sounds a lot more hollow.”

Redpath continued, “Some congressional Democrats may make a rhetorical show of opposing Obama’s decision, but that is all it will be. Obama is guaranteed to get the additional troops and funding that he wants.”

Redpath continued, “Instead, Congress should re-assert its authority in matters of war, by passing legislation that terminates the president’s authorization to make war in Afghanistan, and that calls for an orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan. If the president vetoes it, Congress should override the veto.”

In September 2008, the LNC adopted a resolution calling for a military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Benedict commented further, “One problem with the president’s strategy is that it demonstrates a hyperinflated fear of terrorists. When we act worried and threatened, we make the terrorists feel like they’re having their intended effect, which encourages them to keep doing what they’re doing.”

Redpath continued, “According to the Cato Institute, ‘the U.S. military’s counterinsurgency doctrine says that stabilizing a country the size of Afghanistan would require far more troops than the most wild-eyed hawk has proposed: about 600,000 troops.’ President Obama is proposing to put a total of about 100,000 troops in Afghanistan, which won’t come close to accomplishing anything.”

Redpath concluded, “The president’s speech was surprisingly content-free. The speech was nearly all platitudes, which is typical for politicians, particularly presidents. Will someone please restore substance to American political discourse?”