

I am Joseph Dobrian. I am the Libertarian candidate for Mayor of New York. Libertarianism is based on the idea that you own yourself: on the principle that no one has a higher claim on your life than you - not any group of people, and not the government.

No matter how government officials are selected, they have no rights or claims that the private citizen does not have. Most particularly, they do not have the right to initiate force against you.

In my recent contact with voters, I'm often asked, "What are you going to do for us?"

I will tell you right now that I propose not to pass laws, but to repeal them. I propose not to start new programs, but to cancel old ones that initiate force against the individual.

A government that's strong enough to give you everything you want must by its nature be strong enough to take from you everything you have.

We have a city government that in effect treats us as property. We are a resource for the government. We are serfs. The government declares, in effect, that it has an ownership interest in each and every one of us, which justifies the government's controlling our lives to the greatest possible degree.

If you presume to go against the wishes of the government, you're penalized. Now, for example, you're penalized through fines for violations of obscure and malicious regulations, and punitive taxes on cigarettes. Before long, similar taxes will probably be levied on soda pop and snack cakes.

Our government has gotten into the business of criminalizing ordinary behavior. We're approaching the point where everything that's not specifically permitted is forbidden, and anything that's not specifically forbidden is compulsory. Why? Because by putting us in a constant state of fear, it's easier for the government to keep us in a condition of servitude.

When your government treats you so, it treats you with scorn and contempt. But we have to understand that our current situation is not entirely the fault of government.

The solution is for people to stop asking governments to initiate force on their behalf. That won't be easy, but it has to be done. The evil that the government does, isn't simply done by evil people. Far too often, that evil is done on behalf of otherwise decent people, who

demand that evil be done as a means to their ends.

When I'm elected Mayor, I am not going to try too hard to persuade the City Council to repeal punitive taxes and malicious or invasive prohibitions. They won't do it, because they're too fond of power.

Instead, my policy will be one of defiance. I will ensure that to the extent I can prevent it, not one thin dime will be spent, nor one finger lifted, to collect those taxes or enforce those regulations.

If I'm asked, "What are you going to do for us?" I'll say, "I'll do nothing TO you. I will let you alone. I will stay out of your business. I will accord each of you the respect you deserve as a free citizen under these United States."

Be seeing you.

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