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Subject: Hope

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Dear libertarian:

Six hundred forty-one days on the road has taught me more than how to sleep on sofa-beds. In these five years as a full-time libertarian organizer, I see most libertarians living without a vision of victory.

Some have a "siege mentality." They want to circle the wagons and see how long the ammo holds out. Others have a "remnant mentality." They want to keep the flickering flame of liberty alive, but they don't ever see growth or victory.

I think if these libertarians had hope for victory, they'd get a lot more joy out of life.

I'm just the opposite. I see immense cause for hope --- hope that libertarian ideas will triumph in the next 20-30 years!! For most of us, this is before retirement age. That means in addition to the pain of midwifing the birth of a free society, we'll get a few years to enjoy it.

You betcha, this is bold talk. And OF COURSE, there's no way to be sure, especially of the timing. But I'd like to share the reasons for my excitement. If they make sense to you, I'll ask you to join in making that triumph a reality.

Five Major Reasons for Long Term Optimism

I'll give you five major reasons for long term optimism. And when you read the fifth factor, you'll see why I think "long term" is 2-3 decades, not 2-3 centuries.

First factor: I see evidence we're winning the intellectual battle.

- a) We are attracting top quality young academics. The calibre of those attending the recent Mises Institute graduate seminar in Austrian Economics at Stanford was mindboggling. (And a bit humbling.) These grad students would have been young socialists in the 20's and 30's.
- b) The socialists are not publishing in the academic journals. They've dried up. Their intellectual vim has gone vimless.
- c) In the 30's, Hayek saw us lose the intellectuals. Now we're

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