

LUDWIG
VON
MISES
INSTITUTE

March 7, 1995


Dear 

When high government officials get together these days, they complain about tax rebellions, the anti-Fed movement, right-wing students, state militias, the 10th amendment, property rights, and the affirmative-action backlash. But it's only in hushed voices that they speak of political separation, for it strikes at the heart of the central state.

The very word secession is enough to make a tax-consumer shudder. As Ludwig von Mises pointed out more than 75 years ago, separation is the final answer to oppression. Thomas Jefferson saw secession as a necessary check on the "consolidated government" he so feared. And Murray Rothbard agreed.

That's why the Institute is holding the first-ever academic conference on this subject. We'll explore what causes it and how to promote it, and we'd be so grateful for your help.

When the old Soviet Union was breaking up, the U.S. government and media were horrified. Next to go, despite the Chechnyan massacre, is the Moscow regime itself, which still rules over many subject nations.

Scots too want their freedom from London, as do Northern Italians from Rome. How much better it was when a country like Germany was composed of hundreds of mini-states. Protectionism, so easy in a country the size of the U.S., is impossible for a small country. And dictatorship is much less likely. That's why rebels in southern Mexico want their own country. They're sick and tired of the corruption and tyranny of Mexico City, which Clinton is propping up.

In just the past few years, many multinational states like Czechoslovakia have been dissolved, and Canada—to take just one example—is sure to follow. There may even be a Republic of Texas, a Great Bear Republic of California, or a Southern Confederacy once more. Even New England—which almost seceded at the Hartford Convention in 1812—may want to be free of Washington, D.C.

Decentralism is an aspect of liberty, as the Founding Fathers knew, and the one truly American contribution to political theory. The Leviathan state, on the other hand, allows no competing power centers. That's why states and localities have been made subdivisions of D.C.

States want no mandates, unfunded or otherwise. Suburbs want to be free of the tax-draining crime factories called cities. And there are independence movements in Alaska, Hawaii, and Vermont.

What does all this mean for the cause of liberty? Our conference on "Secession, State, and Economy" at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 7-9, 1995, will answer that question.

Our speakers will include top economists, historians, and political philosophers. Winners of the Mises Institute's international secession competition will be joined by such eloquent spokesmen for freedom as former Congressman Ron Paul, Professor Clyde Wilson of the University of South Carolina, Professor Hans-Hermann Hoppe of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Professor Yuri Maltsev of Carthage College, Professor Joseph Salerno of Pace University, and Dr. David Gordon of the Mises Institute.

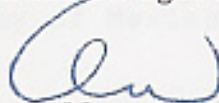
All over the world, peoples are seeking their freedom from faraway power. In our own country, thanks to the centralizing of Lincoln, Wilson, FDR, and LBJ—not to speak of other presidential betrayers of the Constitution—we have a government that the Founding Fathers would not recognize. Or, rather, that they would recognize—as the sort of tyranny they overthrew.

That's why we intend to publish a call to arms based on the conference, a book that will make all of D.C. shudder, and to distribute the tapes of the conference far and wide.

Help the Mises Institute build the ideas that can change the future. Your tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or \$50 would be great: \$100 or \$250 would be magnificent. And donors of \$75 or more will receive a free set of the tapes.

This program is on the cutting edge and not for the faint hearted. But that's why we're here, and that's why you've supported us. Won't you do so once again?

Warmest regards,



Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.
President

P.S. The American Revolution was a secession from Great Britain. Should we secede from our own D.C. monarchy, and send King Bill, the Congress, and all the "civil servants" out to get a job? It's a great thought. But how many employees can McDonald's use?