



**The Role of the NEXT Vice President
How and Why, If Called Upon, Mark Stewart Greenstein Would Be a Very Good
Vice President.**

(address to Greens, Libertarians, and even Republicans)

America has never had a great Vice President. The Constitution and our protocols have not permitted a great VP. I believe we can have a "very good" Vice President starting in 2017.

The Vice President has only one regular duty: to preside over the U.S. Senate. As too few in Washington recognize, the Senate has not adhered to the Constitution in seventy-five years. I refer to every legislation affecting business. Once upon a time Senators would justify such occasional legislation as an extension of Article I Section 8 (the "Commerce Clause"). Ever since the New Deal, Senators don't even think about whether legislation is within the bounds of the Constitution. This ignorance enhances their power and reduces your liberty.

Individual liberty is what the Constitution guarantees and is meant to be protected by the President. The Vice President can somewhat help here. A rock-solid presider over the U.S. Senate does not let un-Constitutional legislation reach the floor. He shuts down debate over anything not permitted to Congress under Article I. Find one of the 18 places for which the Constitution allows congress to act and then the VP withdraws; until then, the VP is a steadfast re-builder of Constitutional governance.

Americans can expect Mark Stewart Greenstein to preside over a Senate whose members don't even know how wayward they are. It shall be my role to rein in Senators who run afoul of our Constitution. To be specific: 1) I will not let a single piece of legislation reach the floor that does not fall within the powers delegated to the congress in Article I. While I have a microphone, I will firmly let the Senate and the nation know that Congress cannot increase its power and reduce individual freedom this way. I will only allow speeches about powers beyond those granted by the Constitution in the hypothetical. No proposed legislation that's outside Article I Section 8 can be promulgated while I preside over the Senate. Senators have the power to speak on any topic, for as long as they wish (that's an unfortunate custom), but if that topic proposes legislation to violate the Constitution, the microphone goes off, and the official recording ceases.

An extremely liberal interpretation of the "commerce clause" is to blame for most of the extra-Constitutional legislation passed over the last 100 years. A wily Franklin Roosevelt and a power-hungry congress started passing "New Deal" laws with no regard to the Constitution's limits on interfering with commerce. Supreme Court members of the 1930s and 1940s, mostly FDR's political nominees, affirmed these wayward interpretations. The cases are laughable (*West Coast Hotel v. Parrish*, *U.S. v. Carolene*

Products, Nebbia v. New York, and Wickard v. Filburn), unless you are a nullifier steeped in the idea of a malleable Constitution that has no meaning.

2) I will organize a committee to REMOVE unConstitutional laws. We've built these up over the last century. Many of them have been passed at the behest of big business, the military, and large lobbying groups. Were they all enforced, we'd strangle ourselves. Removing unConstitutional and unwise laws may be the most valuable thing our next 100 Senators can do. I would engineer immediate removals or three-year phase-outs. Should congress not go along, I would recommend to the President their selective enforcement or non-enforcement.

3) I will disallow any deputizing of bureaucrats to make rules. Our Framers intended domestic legislation to be by an open congress. Congress will no longer be able to entrust bureaucrats to make restrictions, only to administer them. Our liberties were not meant to be clamped by unelected, nameless bureaucrats.

4) I will demand the U.S. Senate STEP UP to its treaty-approving powers. In 2015, the U.S. Senate stood by while John Kerry and a few diplomats negotiated terms with Iran. It freed no American prisoners, gave Americans no security against nuclear build-up, and put \$150,000,000 into the hands of Iranians whose leaders are bent on destroying at least one U.S. ally (Israel) and ultimately most of the western world. No Senate should let that through without a 2/3 approval. Ultimately, the Senate was meant to check presidential power. A VP who presides over the Senate this way means, ironically, enhancing Senate power.

Why this is GOOD for Greens:

With the current two-party hegemony, few proposals from Green Party members see political daylight. They are crowded out by Big interests. Greens rarely get the chance to oppose legislation. When Big Government is de-fanged, and only a few Constitutionally-permitted topics can rise to the congressional agenda, the Green agenda has more prominence. When the Federal Government is restricted to legislating over the military, the courts, and the environment, Greens can focus their efforts and see much better success.

Greens rarely can voice opposition to bureaucratic steam-rolling. We are left outside of Congress – our voices are heard in the street and in a few “way-out” publications. That ends with a bureaucracy that has so few powers that EVERYONE is left on the outside. Once cameramen see real people who are passionately advocating for their needs, versus suit-bound lobbyists paid as mercenaries for those who won't show their faces, REAL people win. Once the majority of legislation is returned to the state and (even better) municipal levels, advocates for true reforms will win over lobbyists who can't stretch to 8000 municipal districts.

But what about good FEDERAL legislation? Let it start with the states. The progressives of the 1890s – 1930s engendered their federal success with state reforms. The four “progressive” Amendments (XVI – XIX) all began with state legislation. Minimum wage laws began with state mandates; hourly work rules also were propelled by prior state legislation. Most of the “New Deal” had progenitors in municipal laws or state proposals. If federal legislation is indeed necessary, the path for it will be paved by success in states and municipalities, which Greens can better control.

