



June 21, 2020

## **We Don't Need a Parental Federal Government**

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, President Trump tweeted at the Governor of Washington and the Mayor of Seattle to “Take back your city NOW. If you don’t do it, I will.” He repeated this threat to reporters on June 15<sup>th</sup> saying, “Now if they don’t do the job, I’ll do the job and I’ve already spoken to the Attorney General about it.”

President Trump is responding to a situation that is being peacefully managed by a mayor and a governor. The power of policing resides with the State and Local authorities. If they want or need help from the Federal Government, they may ask for it. It is not the role of the Federal Government to subdue peacefully protesting citizens. The President disagrees with how state and local authorities are handling things, so he wants to take over and do it his way.

We see this response from Republicans and from Democrats on a wide range of issues from land use to marijuana decriminalization, from gun control to healthcare. Those in power at the federal level don’t like how states are handling an issue so they want to step in. President Trump simply presents us with a glaring example.

As Libertarians it is critical for us to speak up. We must speak up when individual rights are violated. We have gotten adept at that. We must also speak up when the Federal Government seeks to subsume the role of state and local governments. If we don’t like what our state and local governments are doing, it is up to us to change that. It is not up to the Federal Government to play the role of parent and tell us how to live.

-Liz Terwilliger