

WE WILL ALWAYS BE A MARKET, HARDLY A NATION

FREEDOM AS REALITY REACHABLE

First of all I want to thank the invitation of dear João Espada and on his behalf thank the entire team of UCP-IEP. It is a pleasure to be again with the great Pondé, my friends Bruno Garschagen, co-founder of ICS-Brazil, Leonidas Zelmanovitz, friend of more than 30 years, Gabriel Torres, my president and our leader, João Pereira Coutinho.

Last year I stopped with an answer to a Coutinho's question when I said that Brazil will always be a market, but hardly a nation. We are in the midst of a terrible crossroads: on the one hand a crude, rude, loudly president who, in the words of the player Romário at Pelé: "when quiet, he is a poet", but well-meaning president. It is worth remembering that many advances in legal frameworks of sanitation, rail transport, sale of state-owned enterprises, general infrastructure and, especially, very few cases of diversion and corruption. If there were, believe me, they'd be exposed in the media every day. On the other hand, a crude, rude, loudly former president who relies on the media's sympathy for being a former trade unionist and metalworker but, make no mistake, was and is the greatest thief in the history of a prodigal country in political corruption. And we have a third way in dispute for two men whose vanity transcends any scale of measurement and as the devil says at the end of a famous film: "vanity is my favorite sin."

Big decisions are usually nationwide and are long-term processes, complex negotiations involving ideology, public and private corporatism, vanity (again) and, unfortunately, do not obey basic principles of law & economics.

But what changes people's lives are the decisions and actions made in the cities, in the daily lives of all of us, common citizens who need simple things. In this sense we can make a huge quantity of small changes that together generate great transformations. The day-to-day policy is simpler, more objective, less ideological and allows clearer and more transparent compositions. In this sense, since the beginning of the year I have participated in the municipal government of Porto Alegre as director of international relations. Mayor Melo set the goal of tidying up the city, being the great transformer and has as motto: "the city is in a hurry".

Porto Alegre had an alliance for the election between two center-left and center-right parties without many ideological convictions: Mr. Sebastião Melo (traditional politician) and Ricardo Gomes (with strong classical liberal roots). Mr. Melo adopted the discourse and winning the election divided the government into two areas: social, health, mobility and compliance and economic, passing to Mr. Gomes the economic area.

Mr. Gomes invites to his closest working group three classical liberals, three people coming from the private area into the government that started valuing civil servants who want to work and have never been asked. The vice mayor office sets up an economics department that puts Law & economics in operation. The Foreign Office works to put the city in the world map. We managed to confirm a South American SouthSummit edition and are close to bring the Websummit to town.

Follows some of our actual achievements:

- Economic freedom law (more that 3000 activities released from bureaucracy)
- Tax reduction on innovation and technology
- Tax reduction on urban properties
- City pension reform (R\$ 1.4 bi – E 215 mi)
- Authorization for sale of CARRIS, the city public bus company
- Break of PROCEMPA's (the public IT firm) monopoly
- The adoption of a Microcredit system
- Expansion of the airport runway
- Educating cities program (Cidades Educadoras)
- South Summit on March 2022, at 250th anniversary of the city
- Sale of DMAE – the public water & sanitation service
- Reformulation of all urban mobility
- New construction plan by zones

- Retrofit of the 4th district area

I understand that there are two large groups of classical liberals: the thinkers and the doers. They're both important. Without thinkers we cannot maintain and disseminate libertarian ideas, the understanding that with freedom we are able to produce more. But theory is one thing and practice is another. In practice we are giving people freedom to work without the guardianship or control of the government. By reducing taxes we leave more money with people, who are more competent to manage their resources than governments. In practice we are giving people independence, freedom to undertake and make their decisions. The public power seeks to organize and touch what is its function: health, education, security and infrastructure.