

Socialist Vanguard

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Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

From Trump Land to Walker World, Nightmare to Nightmare!

We are witness to the beginnings of devastation by President Trump. We still live in wacky Walker's Wisconsin.

Walker came into office going road crazy. Walker pushed rebuilding road projects and also new road construction. This came at the expense of local communities, who found their funds cut for road maintenance, and efforts to develop alternatives to auto transportation.

Lots of projects were started, but anyone with a car knows that road construction is progressing very slowly, if at all! Now that the state transportation fund is almost broke, our leaders in Madison have to figure out ways to replenish the funds. Wisconsin's transportation funds come from vehicle registration fees and gas taxes. For a long time the gas taxes were bracketed to inflation, the fund automatically increased and the fund was sufficient to meet the needs. As part of the tax revolt it was determined that gas taxes should only be raised by legislative action. In today's political climate, controlled by tax cutting Republicans, raising a tax is heresy. Walker has slowed down the road projects extending painful travel delays for many, as they have endured congestion in construction zones.

Walker, with his limited understanding of public policy and problems created by GOP deficit fearing, cannot get the job done. Walker and the GOP had been quick to cut funds for public transportation. Their policies have bankrupted the Transportation Trust Fund. There is no free lunch and there can only be so much cut before services are adversely affected. Cutting government services and government expenses harms the economy. The reductions take money out of the economy resulting in recessions and depressions.

Meanwhile, Walker continues his grandstanding with calls for welfare reform. Where is the problem? Twenty years ago Governor Tommy Thompson and President Bill Clinton ended "welfare as we know it" with time limits and many

welfare to work programs. Historically, welfare has been a temporary net for those facing economic troubles. Mean-spirited politicians try to prove their toughness by showing a family who had generations of welfare recipients; these families were always the exception, not the norm. While Walker is boasting of a robust state economy, he somehow feels we need more welfare "reform". Details of Walker's reforms are sketchy at this point, but he claims his reforms will be a "springboard to self-sufficiency". If it works like Thompson's welfare-to-work programs, welfare recipients will be trained in large numbers for only a few occupations. This creates a glut of workers in certain areas and lowers wages.

Walker continues to call for a tuition freeze at state universities. This seems to be a laudable goal, but if the tuition freezes for in-state students is continued without an increase in state assistance for the UW System. The university's research efforts will be directed not by the pursuit of knowledge, but by product research for corporations. Meanwhile, Wisconsin continues to see a brain drain as professors look elsewhere for employment opportunities.

Walker pledges to continue his efforts to lower local property taxes. Walker also wants to increase funds for k-12 public education, especially for rural schools. Sounds good, what about urban school districts that are also hurting? With property taxes levy limits; many local governments and schools remain starved for money.

Meanwhile a bill has been introduced to the state legislature that will prohibit local governments from requiring those with government contractors from having to pay union-level wages. This is another effort to undermine union strength and to lower wages.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES RESULT IN GOOD GOVERNANCE! DS

NOTE THE FEBRUARY 4 MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF WISCONSIN WILL START AT 2:30 P.M.!

New Militancy Needed

By David Williams

Wisconsin unions (and American unions in general) are weak now because supporting the pro-corporate Democratic Party has been their only strategy for decades.

I attended the Wisconsin Labor History annual conference in Waukesha in the spring of 2010. I spoke and warned the so-called assorted Wisconsin labor "leaders" in attendance there about the new Tea Party and gubernatorial candidate

Walker and the urgent need to shift to an independent class-struggle strategy. **But they of course would not listen.**

Subsequently they were defeated in the Painfully-Moderate-Wisconsin-Uprising and the equally pathetic Recall and have been Walked-on-by-the-Walker-Gang.

And today all they can think about is hunkering-down and looking to salvage something out of the 2018 elections!
(Continued on other side)

Words for thought

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning, but without understanding." Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis

New Weird Way of Living

By Brian Hey

Let this new theocratic development commence. Nobody likes receiving pain, in America. We like bringing abnormal pain and death to the rest of the world. We have forgotten how to grow democracy. We can only hang our head and look the other way, praying for our country's redemption.

The model of social security, personal health care, and parental planning will be on the chopping block. Boy Wonder, Rep. Ryan is winding up for the big pitch. And when his racist, misogynist policy is in motion, then we, as a nation will be forced to believe in the great fascist capitalism. We will worship the wealthy or die. Can't cut the cake? You can't be like them? The new 21st century fascist model doesn't like that attitude. Militarily, U.S. is the best; we should follow Boy Wonder, the new leader. It used to be Cheney and Rumsfeld. **All hail the new hatred!** We used to follow Haig and Weinburger. **All hail the new hatred!** The hatreds of Agnew and Kissinger followed. **All hail the right wing hatred!** They promised it would do us all good.

And let's not ruffle any feathers. We can watch another tidal wave of fascist glory, like we did from 1981, Reagan the king, thinking we had freedom. Welcome to the new and latest arrival of happy fascism that is adored by the nation, it says so on TV. "Crush the masses." Stamp out poor people with persecution and the persuasion of death. Recognize the new imperial empire, the United States, gluttons that find

punishment enjoyable. Here comes the inauguration but wait a minute, this country and the hysteria of national politics, remains far away from the ordinary people in America.

After all these years from 1977 – 2000, there seemed to be an understanding of warfare recovery into a peacemaking relationship with the rest of the world. Our war machine didn't want that. We proclaimed the one hundred years of war for the 21st century. This puts everyone in peril, every enemy has an enemy, and suddenly we are living in a killing nation, where killers are the winners. It's clearly a debacle.

Immediately, health care is in danger, social security poses the question- for whom and what's the reason? Exclusionary exceptionalism, we don't want to admit it but it's hard for us to understand that the same person we love here (self) is like another human that lives 5000 miles away. Inequality continues being acceptable inside our nation.

How can 330 million people accept these politics? We don't, it's an enforcement to show what America proposes for the next 80 years.

Capitalism and fascism work so well together. We must get louder and more rebellious! **We need to continue calling for a different way, a DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST way.**

Brian Hey is a long-time Socialist from Milwaukee

Let's Hope Things Are Not As Bad As They Seem

By Charlotte Bleistein

Here we are, Christmas 2016. And we hoped everything would be OK under the present circumstances. I admit my last three Xmas lmessages were a bit pessimistic, but now what we have is a complete mess, and not in only our own country but the whole world. Everything is so bad I am reminded again about the writings of my grandfather Judge Richard Elsner as he wrote almost 100 years ago. "We live under civilized barbarism rather than real civilization; the public offices in America are being bought; whoever pays the most money is liable to get the highest office; Wall Street is the center of all trusts, monopolies, private owned public utilities and it rules through Washington, the whole country. Americanism should mean tolerance, equal justice *and is the second oldest Party member, she just turned 102!*

to all, free speech, free press, free assemblage, and general welfare. The most un-American thing in America is the capitalist." ... With Trump on top we will have none of this, and cannot even hope for it.

He (Elsner) wrote, a Chicago lady in speaking of statesmen in states and the nation remarked: "Fools are sitting there and fools sent them there."

My impression is that right now the capitalists are in such complete control that any hope for change is impossible. Our only hope is that things are not as bad as they seem.

Charlotte was raised in a Socialist family

New Militancy Needed (continued from other side)

PATHETIC! PATHETIC! PATHETIC!!!

They will never learn. A new generation of radical activists must create a totally new independent class strug-

gle/labor movement from the ashes-- American society is collapsing!

David Williams is a member of the IWW in Madison

SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting: Saturday, February 4, at 2:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

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