The US House of Representatives has passed a bill changing the tax codes. With much ballyhoo the GOP and segments of the corporate business community are praising the bill because it lowers taxes for everybody. Corporations will be rushing to invest in the USA, wealth will be pouring into the USA and all Americans will prosper.

Enjoy the propaganda while it lasts. The USA does not exist in a vacuum. Other nations have the ability (and stupidity) to compete for corporate investments. Most independent studies find that low taxes are relatively inconsequential in influencing business investments (Resources and markets, available transportation, labor skills and labor costs, safety and government services, environmental protections, societal stability are all more important!)

While the GOP tax proposals all call for reducing the number of tax brackets, Not everyone’s tax will be reduced. The GOP proposes eliminating many tax breaks and loopholes, which will be offset by increases in the standard deduction. Most independent (not performed for Republicans or Democrats) find that in the first year most, if not all, taxpayers will experience at least a slight reduction in taxes. Meanwhile, the biggest reductions go to corporations and the wealthiest taxpayers.

The GOP tax proposals for most of America is a form of bait and switch. By 2027 almost all of the tax breaks aimed at working people will end and their taxes will rise. After year one, tax rates will start creeping up and the tax savings will be lost (except for corporations and the very wealthy) This is a good ploy for the coming 2018 elections. Don’t be deceived!

Also do not be deceived by Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson’s opposition to the Senate tax bill. Johnson sounds principled as he complains about the tax breaks being slanted too much for corporations. Remember, he is not opposing the lifting of the mandate in the Affordable Care Act. Johnson wants to reduce taxes for “pass-through” businesses (small businesses) so that they are treated more like corporations. This sounds good, what it will do is make it easier, and less evil, for corporations to downsize their workforce by pushing more employees into the status of entrepreneur and unable to form labor unions, resulting in fewer pay hikes, no benefits like paid vacations, paid holidays, paid sick days and other good stuff that unions help workers receive. In other words, Johnson is pushing anti-union legislation. Given the GOP and Trump’s distaste for working people, Johnson and the other Senate GOP should have no trouble working out a compromise that will “stick-it” to employees.

There is no reason to think that Ron Johnson has grown a social conscience! Nor is there any reason to think that the GOP leaders (and followers) have much of a social conscience. This relies on the old “trickle-down” theories claiming that rewarding corporations and the wealthiest Americans will benefit the nation. Jobs will not be created, wages will not increase, wealth will continue to concentrate at the top.

The tax cuts will put the nation into greater debt. The increased debt will result in cutting of programs and services. Our economy instead of expanding as promised will contract, inequality will rise.

Some form of tax cuts are inevitable with the control the GOP has, but we on the left must be vocal to both minimize the damages and to make the establishment pay for their sins in coming elections! DS

Words for thought

“The emphasis is on striking political positions, not on delivering evidence-based solutions. In fact, modern governance is mainly a nonideological business.” Tony Blair
Recently, Bernie Sanders announced that he will run for another term as US Senator as an independent, not a Democrat. The nation owes a great deal to Sanders, not because he won, but because he championed a number of important causes and placed them on the national agenda for discussion (most notably a demand for universal government supported healthcare. The GOP is trying to dismantle the Affordable Care Act (ACA commonly called Obamacare), one reason the ACA is not popular is it is a timid effort at reforming the nation’s health system. The GOP is finding that dismantling it and going back to what it replaced is even less humane or desired. If it was not for Sanders championing a real solution, the Dems would be in a real quandary.

The Democratic Party is not a party of real change, as it is afraid to rock the boat and support new ideas. Traditionally, in American politics new ideas and solutions come from third parties and more recently interest groups. We credit Franklin D. Roosevelt with implementing a number of revolutionary programs. The reality; FDR and the Democrats did not come up with Social Security, the National Labor Relations Board, Unemployment Insurance, public works and other programs. These were proposed by Socialist Norman Thomas.

At our November meeting, Democrat Representative came and spoke on Wisconsin’s case that was recently heard on Gerrymandering.

Fred was part of the Wisconsin delegation suing and protesting the GOP redistricting maps drawn in 2011. Fred was guardedly optimistic that the US Supreme Court would rule that the redistricting map were highly partisan and unfair to Wisconsin citizens who are not fairly represented by the GOP drawn maps.

Unfortunately, a favorable court ruling would not be the end of the case. The Court will then send it back to the state to have the districts redrawn. The GOP players would still be the same ones who drew the maps the last time. The GOP would then present the maps to an appeals court. Fred is trying to counter the GOP plans by drawing maps that would not favor one party over the other.

With Rep. Kessler at our meeting we suggested that a system of proportional representation be implemented as that would be the fairest system. Fred did not think it would work and that we are not ready for it as too many laws would have to be adjusted.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century was not led by any initiative of the Democratic Party. The Civil Rights Movement was the product of many leaders, most of whom were independent of either major political party. Socialist labor leader A. Phillip Randolph was a prominent leader during the Great Depression and the War (WWI, WWII, Korean and Cold War) years. Others included Bayard Rustin, a peace activist and communist; W.E.B. Du Bois, a scholar and founder of the NAACP; Fannie Lou Hamer, a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., co-founder of the SCLS, the most visible spokesperson of the movement and an admirer of Socialist Norman Thomas; and many others. Some of these leaders later joined the Democratic Party. Before joining the Dems, they were outspoken leaders championing civil rights and human rights.

Labor and civil rights gains would not have happened if it was not for the efforts of outsiders demanding seemingly unrealistic goals and changes! If one wants real reforms and social change, DO NOT WAIT FOR THE DEMOCRATS OR THE REPUBLICANS! DS

This year the SP is breaking from it tradition of selling IWW Calendars. Instead a representative of the IWW will be at our December meeting to sell the 2018 Calendars. The IWW Calendars contain interesting historical information for many dates.

SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting: Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee

Wisconsin Injured Workers will be having one of their dinners on December 16 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 3022 W. Wisconsin (enter from W. Wells St.) at 3:30 p.m. Come for Great Mexican food & door prizes. Suggested donations: $7.00

Socialist Party of Wisconsin
2025 N. Martin Luther King Dr #305– Milwaukee, WI 53212 – Phone: 414-332-0654
Email: demsocvanguard@gmail.com Website: http://www.socialistpartyofwisconsin.org