The nation is heartened as President Donald Trump fulfills his campaign pledge to build a wall along the USA-Mexican border. In the spirit of the pledge to “Make America Great Again” Trump showed his American ingenuity, as he overcame numerous obstacles to building the wall.

The deficit hawks in Congress were thrilled when Trump replaced his plans for a metal or masonry wall with one made of local sand and clay. This eliminated the transportation costs of shipping costly materials. Further savings were found when Trump overcame the loss of immigrant workers to fill important construction jobs, especially along the Mexican borders, by replacing them with child labor. To insure that the children would be poorly paid, Trump and the GOP repealed of prevailing wage laws.

By repealing federal child labor laws, that first came into existence in 1916 and became a seemingly permanent reality in 1938; children became a new source of cheap labor for American industries and the construction companies building the Wall. A great victory for American employers! Many of Trump’s working class supporters are also happy. Declining wages and household income is a major concern in our globalized world. All this while prices and profits rose. By sending their children out to work working class families can supplement family incomes and compensate for lost buying power! Children are now economic assets!

Repealing the child labor laws (and the minimum wage laws) allowed the Trump administration to advance its educational programs. Along with dismantling the nation’s public school system, compulsory education is replaced by expanded school-to-work programs, which allow employers to hire children as interns/apprentices as soon as a child can function in the workplace! There is nothing better than on-the-job training!

An added benefit to the sand/clay wall is it is less permanent, overcoming objections of environmentalists. Producing the concrete needed for the walls would create greenhouse gas emissions, the costs of transporting materials would also add to air pollution. A more permanent wall would also block migratory paths of many wildlife species (for example, ocelots and jaguars). Additionally, more substantial walls alter drainage systems causing erosion and flooding, as well as pose a major obstacle to animals whose domain transcends the border.

Most importantly, the new wall will stop the immigration of undocumented workers into the USA. After all with corporate profits rising and wages collapsing, who would want to come the USA? DS

Words for thought

“But inaction is a luxury we can’t afford, because things are getting worse. And they’re going to get better only if we organize.” Mark Bittman

“You can kill the dreamer. But no, absolutely, you cannot kill the dream!” Dr. Samuel Kyles
Meanwhile in Wisconsin, Child Labor Laws Under Attack!

The satire on the front page is fictitious (and we hope it stays that way). However, a couple of Republicans (Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) and Sen. Kapenga (R-Delafeld)) in Wisconsin are pushing a bill that would eliminate the work permit process regulating work by 16 and 17 year olds. If you live in Wisconsin, please send a message to your representative or state senator asking him/her to oppose AB 25 and SB 11. DS

Trump’s Travails

Well, President Trump has ventured out of the country. His first stop was Saudi Arabia, next Israel, then onto Rome and the Pope.

Trump claimed to be set on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. While efforts over the past 60 years have failed, one can hope against all odds that Trump could be different.

On his first stop, Trump sounded like most of his predecessors. He announced several economic deals. The first was a huge arms deal with the Saudis buying over $100 million in military goods. This does nothing to solve any problems, but merely adds more weapons of destruction to a region of the world, which suffers from to many wars and acts of violence.

One of the lessons of human history is that violence breeds violence. If Trump has any hopes of bringing peace he must endorse policies and programs providing foreign aid and promoting non-military cooperation (not his persona).

Terrorists are created by economic and psychological frustrations. Religious, racist or patriotic prides are superficial symptoms. Terrorism cannot be stopped by building walls or imposing stringent immigration laws. Most of the time, terrorist acts are carried out by a nation’s own citizens. The common denominator is frustration and a feeling of oppression. Trump’s actions and tough guy talk only reinforce the potential terrorists’ anger.

For example, a second-generation immigrant carried out the recent atrocity in Manchester, England. Like many newcomers, the immigrant family have faced difficult times adjusting to a new home. Hostile actions and suspicions by the media, the police and some of their new neighbors breed fear, disappointment, disillusionment and frustration.

Such people are the object of opportunists looking for power, such as the Islamic State or a neo-Nazi group in the USA or Europe. We need to provide greater economic opportunities and also better democracies so that all people feel that they have a place for their voice to be heard! Trump’s invoking fears and insecurities without providing real help to the disenchanted Americans or to the world’s disenfranchised leads to more problems and potential terrorists. A world guided by Democratic Socialist principles is the best way to bring about peace and a safe world! DS

The annual Socialist Picnic will be held on June 24 at Washington Park Area #10. Bill Douglas, a long-time Socialist activist from Iowa will speak on the topic of “Picnics, Protests and Prisons, Stories of World War I-era Socialists”. While the topic may seem to be a history lesson, Bill has a way of relating history to today’s struggles. The Picnic will be from noon till around 4 pm. There will be lots of food and plenty of good conversation, including an open microphone for people to make announcements and to speak on topics of concern. Free! The public is welcome!

Paul Ryan, Enemy of the State

For the past several weeks, those of us living in south-eastern Wisconsin have been bombarded with political ads praising US House Speaker Paul Ryan for implementing a “bold” health plan. The health plan passed by the GOP in the US House of Representatives under Ryan’s leadership is touted by the American Action Network (AAN) commercial as: 1) reducing the federal deficit by $1 trillion; 2) creating thousands of jobs; 3) providing billions in tax relief; 4) replacing the government and putting patients and doctors in control of medical decisions; 5) eliminating government mandates; 6) empowers states to take the lead in providing health care for their citizens; 7) providing citizens with more choice; 8) improving coverage; and 9) lower monthly/annual premiums.

The House GOP plan is all lies and deceptions! The “boldness” of the GOP plan is that is so blatantly reveals the GOP’s insensitivity to working people and its loyalty to the wealthy ruling classes.

Recently, the Congressional Budget Office reported:
- The deficit would be reduced by $119 billion (about a ninth of the AAN claims)
- The 23 million more people would lack insurance in 2026 under the GOP plan than would be without insurance under Obamacare.
- For low-risk citizens (young and healthy) insurance premiums would decline, but higher risk individuals (older and those with a history of medical problems) would see dramatic increases in out-of-pocket health care costs, either through higher premiums or higher deductibles.
- States would have more control and could waive manda- tory coverage for “non-essential” services like maternity care, mental health and substance abuse services, expensive prescription drugs, dental care, rehabilitative services.
- There would be reduced federal outlays for Medicaid cov- erage.
- Federal subsidies of health premiums would be reduced.
- In theory “pre-existing” conditions would still be covered. In practice they would put people in high-risk category, thus facing much higher premiums, which may make insurance unaffordable.

For the most part the House GOP bill leaves health decisions and power in the hands of insurance companies (continuing a problem of the Affordable Care Act) and returns us to the days where the best health plan was DON’T GET SICK! Paul Ryan and other GOP leaders see this as a way of punishing the scum of society who dare to get sick. Bernie Sanders has rounded up more than a 100 signatures in Congress supporting his “Medicare for All” plan. DS

SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting: Saturday, June 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee

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