Edited by Dave Schall

Trump, The Great Deal Maker: Anti-Free Trade + Anti-Immigration = Anti-Worker

Earlier this year, Trump announced a number of industries that would no longer be governed by trade agreements. This was a move to protect US businesses (Trump claimed it was going to improve worker wages and create jobs). Shortly after it was discovered that in a globalized economy the US was likely to lose jobs and there was nothing to insure that US workers would get a raise. Additionally, the destruction of trade agreements also undermined the world’s willingness to trust the USA. Trump quickly relaxed or delayed the tariffs on products coming from Europe. (Furthering the common perception of USA’s lack of truthfulness and commitment).

Trump seemingly did not back down with his pledge to bring China to its knees with a “trade war”. Trump promised to bring jobs back to the USA and one of the losers appeared to be ZTE, a Chinese electronics maker. ZTE employs 75,000 workers, and the US was about to end the export of US technology. This would have ended ZTE’s ability to function. In an about face, Trump announced that the US Commerce Department would work with China to protect the 75,000 employees. Additionally, ZTE had broken promises concerning trade with Iran and North Korea. It is nice that Trump wants to protect Chinese workers’ jobs. Guess that’s what tough negotiators do.

With all the bluster about the evils of “free” trade, caring about the ZTE workers in China is the first time that Trump appeared to care about workers’ wages and working conditions. Most of the time Trump’s anti-free trade agenda appears to be more isolationist and likely to insolate workers from international pressures that would increase workers’ wellbeing. The regulations and restrictions are not on tariffs, but on environmental laws that help worker health and wellbeing.

By pursuing isolationist trade policies, Trump is keeping low-income nations poor, thus providing a supply of cheap labor. Keeping folks down on the farm is great for corporate interests!

Meanwhile threats of deportation, building a wall, and stopping immigration in general, all present a solution for the bigotry of many. Throw in fears of terrorism and alleged violent behavior by foreigners and you have a recipe for creating a strong and dangerous political base. For many immigrants a life of fear and of deportation and/or imprisonment force them to accept wages below the legal wage and far below livable wages. With pollution increasing, health care becoming more difficult to obtain, the divide between rich and poor increasing, we should get out Charles Dickens books describing 19th Century industrial cities. For those who still have an education, they will need to update the times and places.

The dreams and goals of those 19th Century Socialists need to be revived! The longer we wait the more difficult will be restoring socialist sanity to his Earth!  

June is Picnic Time! See You at the SP-WI Picnic

We are approaching the 2018-midterm elections. The two major political parties are fractured, with rebellious tea-partiers (Trumpists) battling with establishment, corporate leaders. Meanwhile the idealistic followers of Bernie Sanders presidential bid are battling it out with don’t rock-the-boat Democratic elitists. Meanwhile in Washington, the Trump administration appears to be mired in constant turmoil and little gets done except for passing a tax-bill that rewards the wealthiest in America. There is little comprehension or willingness to get things done. It really is time for a serious 3rd Party or two.

At our Picnic we will be able to listen to Stephen Hauser, a passionate and long-time advocate of promoting 3rd parties in the USA! Steve is a ‘roads’ scholar. Steve has earned the title of “roads scholar” as he is among the oppressed, abused, and underpaid college faculty hired part-time by many post-secondary institutions to teach history and political science. Having been exploited by the likes of UWM, Marquette, MATC, Lakeland College, to name a few Steve understands the plight of working people.

The SP-Wisconsin will continue to exploit Steve, he is willing to talk for a bratwurst or a taco. Of course anyone who comes can also grab some eats and soda. The picnic starts around noon; Steve and those looking for an open mike will speak around 2 p.m.

Come to Washington Park Picnic Area #10 just west of North 40th Street. Saturday June 23! Free, public welcome! Bring something to share!

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Words for thought

“DONALD TRUMP is the sort of guy who punches you in the face and if you punch him back, he says ‘Let’s be friends’. China punched back and he retreated. The Europeans told him how beautiful he was, but they got nothing.”  

Economist
Europe’s Plea To Save Iran Nuclear Deal

Trump has replaced a couple of his foreign affairs people with nuclear hawks (Bolton and Pompeo), who are openly hostile to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), more commonly referred to as the Iran Nuclear Agreement, JCPOA keeps Iran out of the nuclear arms race for a decade.

JCPOA is one of the few bright spots in the Mideast. It reduces the number of toys the boys in the Mideast have to play with. Europe’s leaders realize the wisdom of restricting nuclear weapons, but the Trump administration likes to have nuclear toys.

Let’s hope the pressure from the leaders of other countries will be effective. Meanwhile, we need to continue to send emails and letters educating the political leaders of this country that keeping nukes out of Iran is a good idea! DS

Lies, Lies and More Lies!

Israel v Palestine

To demonstrate his moronic foreign policy, Trump moved the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This ignited protests by the Palestinians. Israel met the protests with a military reponse killing over 50 civilians. The Israelis blame the violence on a Palestinian group, Hamas. Hamas is one of the more militant Palestinian groups calling for the use of force, if necessary, to effect change. Media coverage of the Palestinian protest as being non-violent and when things turned violent, the Palestinian protestors were throwing rocks and turning over a few vehicles in the face of the well armed Israeli Army. For those of us who are old enough remember the response to the killing of peace protestors at Kent State University in the early 1970s. Not even the war hawks blamed the non-violent students for initiating the violence.

The western press has given Israel a pass when covering its military clashes since the Israeli state was formed 70 years ago. Europe and the USA felt sorry and guilty for the atrocities the Jews of Europe suffered at the hands of Hitler. Led by Britain, after WWII, the Jews were encouraged to move to what is now Israel. The Jews were given the right to take over the land inhabited by the Palestinians. The Israelis quickly grabbed some of the best land, forcing many Palestinians into refugee camps. The Jews quickly adopted many of the evils of pre-WWII Europe, only this time the Jews were in control. Palestinians have protested over the years, demanding either a separate state or equal treatment under law. The USA and Europe have been quietly pressuring Israel to recognize the Palestinians, as a people with equal rights. As New York Times columnist Michelle Goldberg has written; “Trump has empowered what’s worst in Israel, and as long as he is president, it may be that Israel can kill Palestinians, demolish their homes and appropriate their land with impunity.”

The truth is that Israeli actions over the past 70 years are responsible for any violence between Israelis and Palestinians. DS

Meanwhile, In Wisconsin Walker’s Nose Continues To Grow

Back in Wisconsin, with the November elections coming, Walker is doing what come naturally, lying and deceiving the public.

Walker has numerous ads bragging about how he is spending more on education. Almost all of the increased spending is going to rural areas, which needs more funding. Unfortunately, Walker ignores urban Wisconsin. The Milwaukee School Board is painfully trying to figure out the best way to cope with a $30 million dollar shortfall. In 2011 Walker reduced the role public employee unions could play in advocating for union members, increased employee contributions for health care and retirement, he also capped the amount of pay increases public employees could receive. To make it more difficult for local governments to deliver services, their ability to raise taxes was restricted. These actions discourage many from pursuing jobs in education and public service. They have also increased class sizes, and made it more difficult for local governments to provide quality services. We have a lot to thank Scott “Pinocchio” Walker for! DS

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

Mark Your Calendars SP-Wisconsin Picnic June 23 at Washington Park Area #10

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