

Socialist Vanguard

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Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Beware of Walker and Other Members of the GOP in Sheep's Clothing



Well, Wisconsin had its primary election to choose candidates to represent major parties for various state offices. As expected incumbent the GOP nominated Governor Scott Walker. Wisconsin's State Superintendent for Public Instruction, Tony Evers, was chosen from a field of 8 Dems to oppose Walker for Governor. To no ones surprise, the Dems all said the same thing and there was not a whole lot separating them. Evers had the best name recognition and in a couple of recent polls, Evers was leading Walker.

This year Walker has behaved as though he feared defeat. He has been pushing many bills through the state legislature that have been changes in his previous positions. Walker is an inept administrator and leader, but like any successful politicians, will say anything to be reelected. After 7 years as a Governor cutting state aid to schools, Walker proposed a spending increase of \$600 million on schools (mostly on

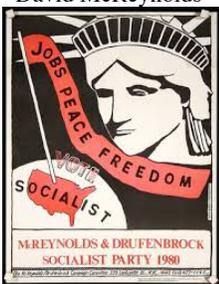
improving rural schools, little if anything on urban school districts). Suddenly he has become concerned with the health of poor people and has expanded the state's Medicaid program. If Walker had been pushing for these programs during the first seven years of his tenure, Wisconsin would be a much better place to live. The violent crime rate, which had been steadily declining, would still be dropping. Our roads would be in better shape. We would be witnessing the connection of a Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-Minneapolis high speed train service being completed (instead it is going south of Wisconsin and north to the Twin Cities west of the Mississippi).

After 7 years of wrecking the public schools in Wisconsin, Walker is claiming to be the "education governor" thanks to his \$600 million increase this year. Meanwhile, Tony Evers who opposed the GOP destruction of public schools is getting blamed for the numerous failing school districts. A teacher, who was accused of watching pornography while at work and making comments about the sexual attractiveness of some female students kept his job thanks to a court decision. Walker has an attack ad blaming Evers, who pushed through legislation to prevent any similar incidents. This is typical Walker; he will say anything and promise anything to keep power. **Remember, the GOP can't be trusted any more than we can trust a wolf in sheep's clothing!** DS

David McReynolds (1929-2018)



David McReynolds



We recently learned of the passing away of David McReynolds, a prominent democratic socialist and pacifist activist. David described himself as a "peace movement bureaucrat for the *War Resister League* for 40 years". David was the SP-USA's presidential candidate twice (1980 and again in 2000). In 1980 Sr. Diane Drufenbrock of Milwaukee was McReynolds' running mate. The McReynolds-Drufenbrock ticket made history, a gay male and a Catholic nun running together.

Their campaign poster shown on the left summed up best what David stood for; Jobs, Peace, Freedom. McReynolds claimed that his "*brand of pacifist-socialism is best suited for future socialist experiments, since it offers the greatest opportunity to prefigure the kinds of democratic relations necessary to create a functional and free society.*"

Steve Rossignol of Texas summed up how many felt: "*David was a positive force for all of us in the Socialist Party and a good comrade and friend. I will miss his wisdom. We've lost a great socialist.*"

Bill Douglas of Iowa said: "*David was also a tireless movement politician... something visionary and essential: struggling through our differences, honoring contradictory principles, and coming up with a way forward out of the dark abyss.*"

Despite of a falling out with the SPUSA in 2015, David remained an ardent socialist known by many of us for his frequent emails with insights about current events. DS

Words for thought

"Anyone who objects to any government whatsoever as a form of socialism ought not to pull that socialist lever in their home, the one that makes their waste disappear in a whirlpool into the socialized sewage treatment plant." — [John Médaille](#)

End The Deplorable Treatment of Refugees

By Anita Zeidler

Seventy years ago, the United States provided moral, principled, and practical international leadership during the drafting and acceptance of the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United States ratified the Declaration. In doing so, we effectively agreed to the responsibility to recognize, support and fulfill these rights. The SP-of Wisconsin believes the United States and all of its citizens need to once again demonstrate our respect and support for these universal rights.

The SP-of Wisconsin asks that our government respect and fulfill the human rights of parents and children entering our country seeking asylum.

It is not illegal to seek asylum. People crossing the border to seek protection, should not be treated as criminals but treated with respect and dignity, and their petitions justly considered. When deciding what policy to implement at our borders to deal with asylum seekers, we believe the effect on children and families involved needs to be considered.

Our government should do what is best for children. Children should be protected, supported and nurtured, not tormented, abused, psychologically scarred, or physically damaged. The practice of the United States government in removing infants and children from their asylum-seeking parents seems to us to be damaging to the children and adults involved and therefore to be immoral and contrary to what we as United States citizens believe.

The damage we are doing and have done is multiplied by a lack of procedures for keeping these parents and children in

touch and reuniting them after legal determinations are made. Parents are being deported without the children taken from them. There are reports of children being lost in the system. Although the government has been ordered by the courts to reunite families, reports indicate that the government has not applied sufficient resources to get this done in a timely manner. This whole situation is unjust and unAmerican.

The SP-of Wisconsin supports a review and revision of the United States' current border practice. We call for a permanent end to the forced separation of parents and children. We ask that Congress create and support new laws codifying a more humane process; rethink and redesign detention facilities, ensure that our government supports everyone's human rights, and provides sufficient resources to promptly reunite children, who were removed from parental custody, with their parents and families.

Further, we ask that the United States rejoin the United Nations' Human Rights Council where the U.S. can once again show leadership in the struggle for Human Rights around the world. As a demonstration of this leadership and commitment, we ask that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women be signed and ratified.

The United States is great when we respect the rights and dignity of all people.

Anita Zeidler is the Treasurer of the Socialist Party of Wisconsin.

Help the Zeidler Lecture Series and Mark Your Calendars

Donations to keep the annual lectures a reality are most appreciated. Make checks out to the International Institute of Wisconsin (1110 N Old World 3rd St, # 420, Milwaukee, WI 53203), and write at the lower left of the check: 'Zeidler lecture.'

The next lecture is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7 pm in Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library. It will feature a book talk and panel discussion of *Misdemeanorland* by Issa Kohler-Hausmann (Associate Professor at Yale)

Say NO to Privatizing the US Postal Service

By Ken Smith

As has been happening on and off for the past 50 years, talk of privatizing the Post Office is once again making headlines. For the past 240+ years it has thankfully been a public institution.

In the 1970's the Postal Service doubled and eventually tripled supervisors. Finally there was 1 boss for every 10 or 12 workers. Most workers will say that supervisors are seldom productive. To "save money" computerization was started in the 1990's. Stamp prices doubled in the 1970's and 1980's, and then tripled in the 1990's and 2000's.

In 1971 the Postal Service became a quasi-corporation, which was to run the Service without tax money, the agency was to support itself. An 11 member Board of Governors is in charge of running the system.

Today, most right-wing people in the "owner class" (who are out of touch with the rest of us, think stamp prices are too low. As we all know, things are usually cheaper if owned by the public or "employee owned". Private company's costs are mostly expensive, pay is low, and profits are high. Further privatization of the Postal Service would put more emphasis on profits, less on service and more abuse in the workplace. Going "postal", which was a common term 20+ years ago, may return again. Many locations would lose their postal service! **Tell your members of Congress to say no to further efforts to privatize the Post Office!**

Ken Smith is a long-time socialist and a retired postal worker.

SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting: Saturday, August 4 at 1:30 p.m. at the Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee.

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

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