

Socialist Vanguard

October 2019 Newsletter

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Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Hope For The Future

October has been exciting as there have been several large demonstrations demanding positive changes in the world. For the most part these have been led by our younger generations. In Hong Kong there have been tens of thousands regularly showing up demanding democratic reforms and objecting to China's authoritarian rule. Chicago Teachers, following examples in other places, are on strike demanding not just better pay, but smaller class sizes and working conditions. The Poor People's Campaign is organizing citizens to challenge systematic racism, poverty, ecological devastation the war economy and the nation's distorted morality.

At the UN Climate Action Summit (and a youth rally preceding it) thousands of youth convened in New York to demand that world leaders take serious action to prevent the climate change that threatens the earth. New York was joined by youth strikes across the globe, which means millions of young people took to the streets demanding action to address the earth's future.

One of the recognized spokespersons for the effort was a Swedish 16 year-old youth, Greta Thunberg. Thunberg made headlines by crossing the Atlantic by sail boat, getting worldwide attention before she even arrived in New York. Greta gave a very moving demand to the UN Summit. The youth movement embarrassed many world leaders, as it has pointed to their duplicity of giving lip-service to combatting climate change, while failing to live-up to their words.

Recently, France's far-right National Rally party has endorsed a Green agenda, putting further at odds with French president, Emmanuel Macron, who is one of those tongue wagers who say one thing and do almost nothing to back-up their words.

Socialists, especially in the USA with leadership from Milwaukee where the Milwaukee "Sewer Socialists" controlled city government and built a state-of-the-art sewerage treatment plant, provided clean water, kept the streets clean, encouraged recycling, as well as built parks and tried to protect Milwaukee's rivers (not always successfully).

Senator Bernie Sanders first activities in politics, besides advocating for democratic socialism was to help support environmentalists in Burlington, Vermont, this led to his successful ascension to be Mayor of that city.

Realistically, it is no surprise that a far-right political party would declare itself an environmental party. If one is looking to protect the earth for future inhabitants, one is an environmentalist. There have always been a number of conservatives who support environmental issues.

In the USA, we find many corporations supporting environmental causes, but it is hard to tell if it is self-interest or true concern. Corporate dollars are often used to influence environmental regulations. Large corporations call for cleaning up Wisconsin Rivers, they support a study done that finds the numerous small, local cheese factories are sources of the contamination. Large cheese producers also are guilty of contaminating our waters, but are willing to look like good citizens (remember because of the economy of scale, they can afford the costs of complying with the new standards. Wisconsin still has a few local cheese factories, but not the number that once dotted Wisconsin's landscape.

In another action, large chain-owned gas stations benefitted from a tougher standard regulating underground gas tanks. All gas stations had to replace their gas tanks and would have to do this on a regular basis. This is not a small expense. The result was that many of the small, locally-owned, independent stations went out of business., leaving the large chains to dominate the market.



Bronze Pencil

While there is no question that society benefits from cleaner water and less ground water contamination, there are better ways of implementing the regulations so that they do not close down locally-owned businesses. Socialists should not be under the influence of big business. American socialist movements, being small and poor, have been able to remain true to their roots, while some of the successful Socialist parties in other countries have sold out to corporate development, this has given rise to the Green Party and other small left-wing groups. **Socialists everywhere need to return to their environmental roots.** DS

The Cabaret Theatre is presenting an original theater production featuring Socialist Mayor Daniel Hoan. Show runs November 7,8,14,15 & 21,22 at the Astor Hotel. All shows start at 7:pm Tickets can be purchased online by searching for Cabaret MKE on BrownPaperTickets.com. Tickets are \$25, senior and student discounted tickets can be reserved via e-mail at cabareMKE@gmail.com.

Words for thought

"Start with your grandest ideas, and any eventual compromise is likely to end up in the middle; start with middling ideas, and your compromise will end up as right-lite." - Charles M. Blow

"Trump Takes Incoherence and Inhumanity and Calls It Foreign Policy" By Nicholas Kristof

**While Waiting For the Impeachment Inquiry to Proceed?
GET TRUMP OUT OF OFFICE!**

We live in a dangerous world, made worse by a lunatic holding the office of USA President! While *Impeachment* gets attention, the emotionally deranged USA President is doing things that are killing hundreds of thousands of people. Many of those not losing their lives, many are facing dangerous threats as civilizations are crumbling.

The situation is too urgent to wait for impeachment. Rather than waiting for the impeachment process to deliver, we need to implement the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution. This amendment has a clause that states:

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President. (Amendment XXV, Section 4, ratified 1967)

This may not solve all of our problems, but it would remove a madman! VP Mike Pence would still be around and capable of doing stupid things, but would probably be more rational and diplomatic.

Trump throughout his tenure has been a chronic liar and often delusional. Right after his Inauguration, he claimed it was the largest crowd ever to witness such an event. It did not take much evidence (numerous camera shots of the event) to prove he was a delusional liar. In justifying his betrayal of the Kurds in Syria, Trump tweeted, “my great and unmatched wisdom” as though he was the smartest person on earth and either knows it all or comes pretty close.

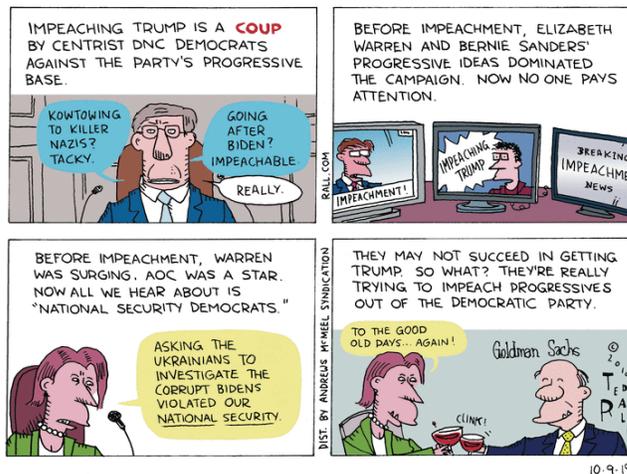
After opening the door for Turkey to go into Syria and commit the genocide of the Syrian Kurds, who had made the most sacrifices in fighting ISIS as the USA’s ally. Trump then said we could intimidate the Turkish leaders because we could and would annihilate the Turks economically, if they attacked the Kurds. Needless to say Turkish military invaded and began killing any Syrian Kurds in the way. Trump then tried to negotiate a cease fire (which appeared to reduce the fighting, not was far from halting the gunfire. Since then Trump, while gunfire is being shown on the news and numerous Kurds are swearing at the USA betrayal when interviewed by the press, has insisted that the Kurds love Americans.

The threat of impeachment has further unhinged an already troubled mind, causing Trump to increase his lying and stupidity. He recently was quoted in an interview that the Democrats were acting like a lynch mob and he was the target

of a lynching. This hysterical analogy is poorly thought out, and stupid for a President to say. The impeachment process is a legal process. It is slow and deliberate. Trump and many in the GOP claim he is not being given due process. The inquiry consists of the House of representatives examining evidence to see if there is something deserving of prosecution. This is the equivalent of a prosecuting attorney gathering evidence to see if s/he has a case. If there is, then there is a vote to impeach, which merely refers the case to the Senate which acts as a court of law with each senator acting as a juror. It is here that those facing impeachment can defend themselves. As the process focuses on politicians, it is political. It is also different than a typical trial, as while the House investigates, the investigation is conducted by members of the House of Representatives, who represent all parties and can introduce and discredit evidence.

This is hardly the equivalent of lynch mob eager to hang an accused victim without a trial. Also, the results of a guilty verdict that the impeached, may be embarrassed, merely are fired from their job (remember Trump was famous on his TV show *The Apprentice* for pointing at a person and emphatically proclaiming “YOU’RE FIRED”). Trump seems terrified he might be the recipient of his own treatment.

As the impeachment process is a slow (as it should be) process, we cannot have a madman leading what is arguably the most powerful nation on earth! **We should demand that Congress (remember most of the GOP were appalled by Trump’s action that betrayed the Kurds) declare Trump “unable to “discharge the powers and duties” as President of the USA! DS**



We Need To Organize!

Democratic Socialism is becoming relevant in the USA, we represent a historical base. This is important, we need to meet to discuss the future of socialism!

We are looking for a place, and a time. Ideas and input are most welcome, we need an independent (separate of the

major political parties) operation to continue rebuilding the Socialist Movement. Many groups out there, but most seem to focus on policy (universal health care, free colleges, and so forth)! **Come together to discuss the direction for a new revitalized socialist movement! Let’s hear from you!**

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

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SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, Nov. 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee

Words for thought

"No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country." Franklin Delano Roosevelt