

Socialist Vanguard

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Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Fear and Suffering

Trump, as he proves to the world (and many of us in the USA) that he is a fascist, keeps attacking immigrants, threatening deportation. Since before he was elected, Trump has been hostile toward immigrants from south of the USA, Mexicans, Venezuelans, Salvadorians, and other peoples from the Caribbean, Central and South America. He campaigned on building a border wall, while accusing Mexicans and others from the south to be rapists, murderers, thieves and other types of criminals. When Puerto Rico was devastated by hurricanes and earthquakes, Trump was very slow to respond to the resulting disasters.

While in office Trump has constantly been calling for the deportation of immigrants, especially those of Hispanic and Muslim backgrounds. Recently Trump has been issuing bans on immigration from much of the Middle East (Muslim), parts of Asia and Africa (again many Muslim areas).

“Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.” Martin Luther King Jr

Wisconsin Socialists have had good working relationships and support from many in the Hispanic communities. Many of our events were attended by many immigrants. Since Trump became President, we have seen a reduction in the numbers coming to our events. We suspect this is at least partly due to fear of a raid by the feds. It is a tragedy that people are afraid of going out and living a free life (remember the promises of freedom in the USA!). The Central Americans who have always turned out have many children born in the USA, most have worked and paid taxes. To label them as “illegal” immigrants is unfair and disrespectful, especially when they are dedicated to be contributing members of society. With many families having children born in the USA (USA citizens), it is cruel that we have a government threatening to split up families. **We should be thanking these contributors, not harassing them!**

Someone, who has settled in and become important parts of our communities and social fabric, should not be permanently labeled “illegal”. Many criminal acts have a statute of limitations that one can face punishment. Yet someone who has been in the USA for almost all their lives may still be subject to punishment for lacking a legal document to be in this country.

Recently, Trump through the Department of Homeland Security, has decided to bar New York residents from federal programs that allow “trusted travelers” special privileges at airport and border checkpoints. The reason given is that New York State denies federal immigration authorities free access to the state’s motor vehicle records.

Another recent tactic of the Trump administration is to deploy members of the southern border patrol, who usually look for smugglers and illicit drugs, to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in several “sanctuary” cities (these are cities that refuse to cooperate in handing immigrants over to the feds for deportation). **Trump will not tolerate any community acting humanely!**

In recent racist move, the Trump administration has negotiated with the Laotian government to send back Hmong residents in the USA who might be deemed “undesirable”. The Hmong made the mistake of siding with the USA during the conflict in Vietnam. After the war ended (45 year ago) the Laotian government threatened the Hmong people. Many Hmong fearing death or some other inhumane punishment fled the country, with many coming to the USA.

The USA, rightfully recognizing that its obligation to its allies, offered asylum. Like most immigrant groups the Hmong have experienced the pains of having to fit into a new culture and a new land. They left a rural life in tropical forests and have had to adjust to the cold of the Midwest of the USA. Their marriage customs and family structures are different from. Hmong parents are often upset at the freedoms available to youth in the USA, while they prefer a very tight family life.

Now the Trump administration wants to turn its back on allies that sacrificed lives and their homeland to fight for the USA. Now we have another group living in fear. **Trump’s message is not one of “USA the All Powerful”, but the “USA, the Country of Racism and Meanness”!** We need to restore humanity, we need a socialist government!

Words for thought

“The Biggest Enemy: “His name is: Indifference, lethargy, cowardice and lack of solidarity of a large part of the working class. . . . All the trouble in our country is due to the labor people; ignorant in economic and political questions, docilely misled by the cunning capitalistic press. . . .

The immortal Lincoln said: ‘The truth will make you free.’ ”

by Herman Greulich (A Swiss socialist politician in the 19th and 20th Centuries)

The Value of Protest Votes

By Richard Elsner

Hardly 10 percent of the voters of the whole country understand the value of the protest vote. The leaders of both old parties and Wall Street understand very well what a large protest vote means

In the last 50 years because of the rapid development of capitalism on the road to trusts, political parties in opposition to the two old parties arose and the capitalist papers and all the agitators for capitalism at once shouted: "Don't throw your votes away on a small party, by all means you cannot elect your small candidates; what's the use?" And the large majority of the innocent and gullible voters voted either the Democratic or the Republican ticket, with the sure result that whenever the Democratic Party won, the Republican votes were thrown away, and whenever the Republican Party won, the Democratic votes were thrown away.

By such indiscreet political conduct voters voted against themselves, their wives, their children and their class; they voted away all the natural resources and in cities the valuable street car, electric light, gas and telephone franchises to Wall Street, which is now the central seat of all the trusts, monopolies and privately-owned utilities that divide the money of the useful people to make fat dividends and fat dividends for the insiders, not to speak of the current demoralization to our public.

Think of the coal trust alone, that divides our money so sharply; think of the many other trusts!

The capitalist press is here to mislead its readers on economic and political matters, to denounce Socialism, and all Socialists, to work all possible prejudices on the minds of the people, even telling its credulous readers, the gigantic lie, at times that Socialists will divide up, while most of their readers

have been rendered already so blind that they cannot see the present day dividing up process.

The capitalist press is bound to lie and misrepresent more and more from day to day because outworn capitalism is becoming an ever-increasing burden on the people.

Among other things, it makes people believe that there is a great difference between the Democratic and Republican parties. The only difference is that the word "democratic" is derived from the Greek language and the word "republican" is derived from the Latin language. The fundamental meaning of both of them is the same, and these two terms are used with great success to befuddle the minds of the people.

Common sense dictates to read a truthful paper, to pay for truth and not for lies, to become familiar with the doings of the country in which one lives and of the world in total.

Readers of such papers are the intelligent protest voters, the real 100 percent Americans.

The election of Magnus Johnson in Minnesota by protest voters threw Wall Street and the capitalist press in commotion and excitement, almost into hysterics; it was an election independent of Wall Street.

If there never had been protest voters in Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee would not have today the best government of any large city in the United States!

From *The Milwaukee Leader*, June 11, 1918 (estimated). "*The Leader*" was the Milwaukee Socialist's Newspaper in the early 1900's. Richard Elsner was one of the founders of the Socialist Party.

The Plight of Many Military Veterans and Socialism!

There is a constant barrage of ads promoting charities to help disabled military veterans. Part of the plea for money is that we need to be thankful for the sacrifice the vets have made for their country. While this is a good promotion for



the military recruiters as they seek recruits for each branch of the service, the truth is that the sacrifice is being made for the large corporations and is a government handout as the

military provides protection and secures resources for the multi-national corporations.

The suffering of the veterans reflects the need for workers' compensation and worker protections in the workplace. It is fitting that the military fights to minimize the rights and its obligations to its soldiers just as corporations dedicate significant resources to minimize their obligations to the welfare of their employees! Idolizing military veterans for serving is not just compensation for an injury while on duty! It is military propaganda! **The military and all other employers should take care of its wounded workers!**

What is Socialism in the 21st Century?

Bernie Sanders has been calling himself a Socialist for more than 40 years. Recently, Paul Krugman, a *NY Times* columnist and economist said that the society that Sanders proposes is not socialist, by what Europe calls social democracies. We need to look at "SOCIALISM" as we live

in the 21st Century. Are the 19th Century ideals still relevant? What did we learn from the 20th Century? Is Democratic Socialism really socialist?

Your input is welcome!

SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee

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